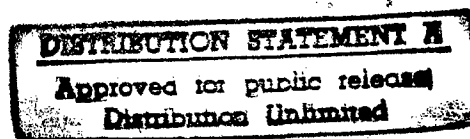


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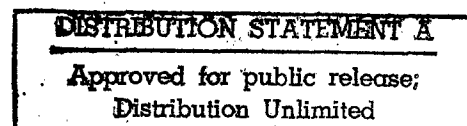
Near East & South Asia

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Near East & South Asia

IRAN

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CONTENTS

9 October 1991

POLITICAL

International Affairs

SALAM Comments on U.S. Disarmament Plan [SALAM 13 Aug]	1
Iran Elected Deputy Chair at Nonaligned Session [Tehran TV]	1
'Political Expert' Views Peace Conference [Tehran Radio]	1
SALAM Examines UN Resolutions on Iraq [SALAM 26 Aug]	3
Benefits of Releasing Western Hostages Questioned [KEYHAN 14 Aug]	3
Rafsanjani on Need for Study of USSR Events [Tehran Radio]	4
Interior Minister Discusses Iraqi, Soviet Refugees [IRNA]	4
Larijani Discusses Outcome of Soviet Coup Attempt [Tehran TV]	4
Talks Held With USSR on Power Industry Project [Tehran Radio]	5
KEYHAN Interviews Ambassador to France [KEYHAN 14 Aug]	5
Bakhtiar Extradition Request Allegations Denied [IRNA]	7

Regional Affairs

MKO Members Describe Life in Iraqi Camps [KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 3 Sep]	8
Kordestan Radio Reports 19 Aug Operations [Voice of Iranian Kordestan]	8
Aim of Six-Party Meeting on Afghanistan Viewed [KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 19 Aug]	9
'Realistic' Afghan Peace Proposal Expected [Tehran Radio]	9
SALAM on Ties To Iraq, Saddam's Future [SALAM 19 Aug]	10
Algerian 'Campaign' Against Sanctities Denounced [ABRAR 24 Aug]	10
Paper on Concern Over Developments in Algeria [IRNA]	11
Clandestine Reports Attack on Iran-Turkey Pipeline [Voice of Kordestan]	11
Tehran Ready To Help Rebuild Beirut [IRNA]	11

Internal Affairs

Plots Against Islam Condemned by Khamene'i [Tehran Radio]	12
Khamene'i Comments on Lorestan Visit [Tehran Radio]	12
Paper Urges Ethical Economic, Political Behavior [RESALAT 10 Aug]	13
Anti-Regime Demonstrations Reported in Tehran [Flag of Freedom]	14
KEYHAN Stresses Harmful Effects of Discord [KEYHAN 15 Aug]	14
SALAM Calls For Freedom of Expression, Unity [SALAM 22 Aug]	15
'Jury for Press' To Start Work [IRNA]	16
Intelligence Minister Interviewed [Tehran TV]	16
TV Reports Crime, Espionage Networks Uncovered [Tehran TV]	19
KEYHAN Condemns Love of Luxury Among Officials [KEYHAN 18 Aug]	19
Daily Calls For Introspection and Self-Improvement [JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 25 Aug]	20
Yazdi Meets Clergymen, Officials in Bakhtaran [Tehran Radio]	20
ABRAR Protests Mistreatment of Correspondent [ABRAR 26 Aug]	21

ECONOMIC

Rafsanjani Opens Export Promotion Conference [IRNA]	22
Habibi Optimistic on Improving Economy [KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 3 Sep]	22
Value of German Exports Over 100 Percent [London KEYHAN 22 Aug]	23
'Simpler Language' in Explaining Economy Needed [JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 13 Aug]	23
Housing Loan Interest Increased to 16 Percent [London KEYHAN 15 Aug]	24
Abadan Airport To Become Operational [KEYHAN-E HAVA'I 14 Aug]	24
Tobacco Exports To Increase [KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 4 Sep]	25
SORUSH on Need for Support for Poor [SORUSH 17 Aug]	25

Arak Petrochemical Cost Estimated at \$2 Billion [London KEYHAN 5 Aug]	26
Assembly of Peykan Model 1600 To Begin in New Year [London KEYHAN 22 Aug]	26
Import of Valuable Metals Declared Legal [London KEYHAN 22 Aug]	27
Lack of Expert Manpower Hindering Agricultural Growth [KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 5 Sep]	27
New Import-Export Facilities Established on Kish [KEYHAN-E HAVA'I 14 Aug]	27
Imports From Kish Exempt From Commercial Interest [London KEYHAN 22 Aug]	28
Nonoil Export Volume Decreases [London KEYHAN 15 Aug]	28
Shipping Line Expands Passenger, Cargo Services [IRNA]	29
Paper Views Economic Problems, Political Factions [JAHAN-E ESLAM 25 Aug]	30
IRIB Transmissions Cover 95 Percent of Country [KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 3 Sep]	30

International Affairs

SALAM Comments on U.S. Disarmament Plan

NC2708142891 Tehran SALAM in Persian
13 Aug 91 p 12

[Commentary by 'Ali Mazru'i: "The Slogan of Disarmament, an Instrument of Domination"]

[Text] Is the implementation of the disarmament plan to the benefit or the detriment of the world's countries? In replying to this question, the following points should be considered:

1. America's actions after the oil war prove that America itself does not adhere to this plan. American officials have said many times that to protect regional peace(!) they have kept the arms which they brought into some of the Persian Gulf countries during the war for use in case of future incidents, but actually this is to protect their illegitimate interests. Now the question here is: What is the difference between these countries and the rest of the Third World?

Is the regime occupying Jerusalem, which is one of the main arsenals for these arms and has always been a factor of insecurity and instability in the Middle East region, also included in the disarmament plan?

The fact is that this plan has been propounded only for the countries opposing America.

2. Assuming that an organization is formed promising to guarantee arms control in the world through a strong executive power, what countries will be included in this control? Will this control include only those countries which buy weapons? Or will it also include those which manufacture arms? The interesting fact is that this plan's sharp edge also has included some of the countries manufacturing arms in the Third World, whereas it contains nothing about the world's main arms manufacturers. Whereas, if arms control in its true sense is to be implemented in the world, it should also include the main arms manufacturers and prevent them from manufacturing and selling arms. With the implementation of the current plan, Third World countries will become weaker than before and also will lose their limited defense power. The balance of power will tilt completely in favor of the powerful northern countries, and finally the complete and absolute hegemonism of the North over the South will be achieved.

3. By proposing this plan, America actually wants to weaken and ultimately to destroy the centers of opposition to hegemonism. Because the main centers of opposition to America are in Islamic countries and in the Islamic movements in the Islamic world and are considered to be the main danger to arrogance, this plan is aimed at the Islamic countries which oppose America. Because Islamic Iran is considered to be the center of

struggle against world arrogance, it is certainly considered as one of the main targets of the plan which will try to reduce Iran's military power to its minimum.

The recent stances of Germany and France in relation to the issue of [Iran's] nuclear plants should be viewed within this context. This is the reason the Islamic Republic of Iran should seriously continue its resistance against this plan, and this will become possible only through the unification of all the Islamic forces, and especially through the union of all the Islamic movements against world arrogance.

As it is now observed, in the last Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] communique not only were no stances adopted against the disarmament plan, but the Middle East disarmament plan was welcomed. But of course, considering the combination of countries in the ICO, the support shown for such plans was not surprising. Therefore, a decisive stance toward this plan—a stance which will be decisively supported by the Muslim revolutionary forces in the Middle East—should not be cast into oblivion in any way. Although Western propaganda will interpret this opposition as a warmongering attitude or an effort to fan the flames of instability, nevertheless, it will be a step toward maintaining the balance of power to benefit America's regional opponents.

Iran Elected Deputy Chair at Nonaligned Session

LD0309220791 Tehran IRIB Television First Program
Network in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Sep 91

[Excerpts] Preliminary talks between high-ranking representatives of the countries of the Nonaligned Movement got under way last night in Accra, the capital of Ghana. During today's session, the Islamic republic of Iran was elected as the deputy chair of the 10th session of the movement. [passage omitted]

Regional conflicts, recent developments in the Soviet Union, and the future of the Nonaligned Movement are included in the agenda of the session. Other issues such as scrapping the right of veto of the five permanent members of the Security Council will be assessed.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati arrived in Accra tonight.

'Political Expert' Views Peace Conference

LD2508075691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0635 GMT
21 Aug 91

[Text] [Announcer] the strengthening of the expansionist stances of the Zionist regime and the increasing assistance it has acquired in terms of equipment and arms by America and Israel's Western allies, and the preparation of the grounds for compromise between the Arabs and Israel are the most important consequences of the Persian Gulf crisis. Our correspondent talked on this very

subject to brother Eslami, one of the political experts of the [Islamic Revolutionary] Guard Corps, to which we shall listen together.

[Reporter] You referred to countries that have a deserving role and/or are strategically placed and said that America is trying more to attract these countries to itself. In any case there are two distinct and contradictory parameters which are relevant in the proposed peace conference—that is, two countries are relevant, one of them the Zionist regime and the second, Syria. Bearing in mind the distinct positions of these two countries, could you please explain for us their role toward America's proposed international peace conference. Also, will you please comment on the Islamic Republic of Iran's stance towards this project and toward the stances adopted by the countries of the region.

[Eslami] The truth is that even the Zionist regime is really in a weak position. That is, it has an evil image while the Palestine Intifada is strong and pressure from public opinion is very high. The desire of the nations to eliminate a cancerous growth such as Israel stands at its highest level. This desire exists and springs from the blessings of the Islamic Revolution and the leadership of the departed Imam and esteemed leader of the Revolution. It is this which has today weakened the Zionist regime which for years upheld the motto "From the Nile to the Euphrates"—a goal that it is still pursuing in our opinion. The mere fact that Israel has ostensibly declared: We are ready to give a positive reply to America's proposals, demonstrates weakness on the part of the Zionists. The Zionists know that if they continue their intransigence this can be very dangerous and provocative for them from the propaganda and political standpoint. Therefore, although they are still pursuing the same objectives, the fact that they are today declaring, in this way, that they are prepared to accept—of course, in a contradictory way since at one time they reject proposals and at another time they accept them—demonstrates that the Israelis, Zionists, have placed themselves in line with the direction of America's policies which I have explained. And really, the positive reply of the Zionists is a positive reply to the policies that America wants to pursue in the region. That is, the Zionists know that when they toe the line over this issue declaring that they are prepared, it is through this position adopted by the Israelis that America can overcome some of the weaknesses of its own stance and be able to implement the disarmament project in the region. In any case, this declaration of preparedness on the part of the Zionist regime shows its weakness, and these are very opportune times for us.

As for Syria, I should say that Syria has come forward with its own reasons for accepting the international peace conference. I think that although some of these reasons reflect reality they cannot however, safeguard present stances. Today, when we are witness to the weaknesses of America and the Zionist regime's stances, we cannot—by merely arguing that the Russians have left us unprotected and we are not strong—move in the

direction of these kinds of [peace] proposals. Granted, one important factor as far as Syria is concerned is the reduction in Soviet support for Syria toward the Zionist regime.

Most Western analysts try to justify this issue and refer to the point that the Syrians did not have much choice. We believe that the potential strength of Muslim nations is more than any amount of support from one power or superpower and is not comparable to it. Therefore, perhaps the best card or the greatest point of strength that the Americans may pursue in the affair of the international peace conference—an issue about which U.S. President Bush is concerned—is the agreement of countries which have up to now, endeavored to show themselves to be against the Zionist regime and out of step with it. And we have unfortunately seen that the Syrians are giving reasons such as: Well, the Russians have stopped backing us; Arab countries are pressuring us; we are alone in the world and have to welcome the suitable concessions that this proposal will bring us.

In my opinion, these reasonings are not comprehensive. Islamic countries are strong and today, really, by not accepting this proposed international peace conference, they can inflict the best blows to America. [musical interlude].

We can compare conditions now to those existing at the time of the revolution when the late Shah was ready to give certain concessions. Politically speaking, the Americans are prepared to climb down a bit from their previous stance, or, if the Zionists do this, if they come and say: We are prepared, for instance, to do this or that—this is a sign that they see their future as a defeated and abject one and they have been prepared to climb down by one percent from their previous stances. We have to resist this and insist that the Zionist regime is not a regime worthy of negotiating with. It is a cancerous growth and has to be removed. And if we pursue this issue we should certainly achieve results.

Our expectation from countries such as Syria is precisely that they should be expressing their opposition today; it is indeed today that this opposition could be effective. These are times when Islamic countries should insist on their demands and not budge an inch from them. Rather, they should quicken the declarations of these demands and increase resistance in the face of the enemies, more than before.

But, concerning the Islamic Republic's stance, I should say that just as the Supreme National Council put forward in their recent session, the Islamic Republic's stance is to reject any kind of negotiation with the Zionist regime. Just as our departed Imam—may his soul be accepted in paradise—graciously stated: Israel has to be erased from the arena; Israel has to be eliminated. And all Islamic countries and nations have to endeavor along this path. Naturally, those governments which will restore relations with the Zionist regime and

contribute to fortifying that illegal regime will be plagued with popular protest and are playing with their own survival.

More important than all these factors is the Palestinian nation which will certainly not accept such a compromise and will oppose it. We have seen for years now how the Palestinian nation has given so many martyrs and has a larger claim than anyone else in any kind of settlement of the fulfillment of Rights in the region. The Palestinian nation, Palestinian groups, have, up to now declared their strong stances regarding this conference and have all, unanimously [as heard] rejected such a proposal. We support this demand and invite all Islamic countries—countries which are involved today as those on the side of peace with Israel—to give up this policy and realize that solidarity with the Muslim people of Palestine will bring them victory, glory in this world and reward in the next.

SALAM Examines UN Resolutions on Iraq

*NC2608142391 Tehran SALAM in Persian
26 Aug 91 p 16*

[Unattributed commentary: "The Security Council—Service or Treachery?"]

[Excerpts] The UN Security Council adopted three new resolutions regarding Iraq—Nos. 705, 706, and 707—early yesterday morning which contain certain points deserving close attention:

1. There can be no doubt that Saddam's regime is an adventuristic one, whose black crimes have entered the annals of history. It relies on the idea of "survival through crisis," and constantly creates problems in the region. [passage omitted]

2. It may be, perhaps, that the Iraqi regime has embroiled its people in such difficulties for the last time, although their prospects of extricating themselves from their ordeal are not very bright. This time the Iraqi people, most unfairly, had to pay a very heavy price. We must remember that these people are Muslims, with Shiites comprising more than 80 percent. Moreover, they challenged the Saddam regime in the recent uprisings in al-Najaf, Karbala', Baghdad, al-Nasiriyah, and al-Samawah, in the north and the south of the country, which culminated in the massacre of the Shiites, the exodus of 2 million Kurds, the use of force in al-Najaf and Karbala', and dozens of other disasters. [passage omitted]

Resolution 706, approved by the Security Council yesterday, allows Iraq to sell oil worth \$1.6 billion to purchase food and medicine for its people under UN supervision for a six-month period. This move will, however, do little to ease the plight of the Iraqi people. Revenue from the sale of oil is to be divided into three parts, with more than 60 percent of the total going to finance war reparations, the cost of UN supervision, the

expenses of committees involved in disarmament, returning Kuwait's assets, and border demarcation, and so on.

Thus, only a small portion of the revenue will be used to purchase the food and medicine the people need. Their needs are so great, however, that even the entire amount would not suffice to do so. [passage omitted]

3. The UN Security Council's move sets a dangerous precedent which threatens independence, sovereignty, national security, and many universally recognized norms. It casts doubt over the very meaning of government, state, and country.

Iraq itself began this violation of national sovereignty when it occupied Kuwait, but the Security Council is now continuing the process, with the latest example being Resolution 707. It is not Iraq itself that is the issue here, but the way this opens the door to similar moves against other countries, with the use of such tactics becoming standard international practice.

In light of these three points, the Islamic Republic of Iran's stance and role regarding events in a neighboring country is of crucial importance. On one side is an adventuristic regime, on another a suffering people who need assistance and sympathy, and on the third the prospect of permanent U.S. domination of the region, something that is being consolidated with the help of the United Nations and its Security Council. We will examine this last point more fully at a later date.

Benefits of Releasing Western Hostages Questioned

*NC2708152891 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
14 Aug 91 p 28*

[Commentary by Mas'ud Jazayeri: "An Inappropriate Time"]

[Text] The release of two Western hostages is premature, if not an utter mistake, when the United States is seeking to control the Middle East.

The hostage issue has been and continues to be a vulnerable point for the United States. Despite the fact that the United States has reached a consensus with most of the regional regimes, it still is having problems with the people of those countries, problems which have surfaced in the form of obstacles to the peace conference.

Although the Arab governments and even foreign governments, such as European countries and the Soviet Union, are not in a position to change U.S. policies in the region for the better, the intifadah continues to be a possibility, and when attempts are being made to attain the objectives of the al-Ta'if session, the Islamic Resistance of Lebanon continues to struggle singlehandedly as the most sincere opponent of the Zionist regime. This in itself is the most eloquent of the various stances.

The Arab reactionary regimes for certain reasons lack the capacity for confrontation and on principle consider their survival to be based on unconditional cooperation with the United Nations. None of the Gulf Cooperation Council states is directly involved in military confrontation with Israel, nor do they have territorial disputes with it. Under such circumstances, the Zionists' announcement that Israel will not return the Golan Heights should make Syria much more vigilant. Damascus' stance plays a key role in Bush's peace plan. Any disruption in this strategy would certainly be accompanied by concessions. [sentence as published]

Syria knows Lebanon will not always pay a price for peace, or in other words, will not always be "submissive." A confrontation between the Islamic resistance and Damascus would be the next stage and would bring irredeemable losses for this country. The Syrian regime does not want this confrontation, but it might become inevitable if Syria cooperates with the United States.

The U.S. inability to clear the way in the region for the implementation of its policies would most certainly affect what is being termed the new world order. The Middle East is the beginning, the focal point of this system. The bridling of radicalism and the force of Islam-seeking both have a part to play in this system.

Those countries which choose to cooperate with the United States to attain the above will become victims themselves, more than anyone else, even though this may not be very obvious at first. Syria's double role of granting legitimacy to the despotic Zionist regime and placing the region at the disposal of the preponderant superpower is especially significant, and if relinquished would start a downhill slide in Syria.

The hostage issue also is worth assessing within this framework. The West's diminishing interest in it is confirmed. Beyond the solution of regional issues is the looming U.S. presidential election, which is of immense interest. This in itself is a two-sided coin. The prolonging of the hostage issue runs counter to the U.S. version of the new world order. The presidential campaign will create circumstances in which the ruling regime will need to extricate itself from the hostage problem, and therefore this problem should be considered as far more than just a topical issue.

Rafsanjani on Need for Study of USSR Events

LD0409102891 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 4 Sep 91

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] In another part of his remarks, the president referred to the recent developments in the Soviet Union and said: The Soviet Union is a large country with a great deal of financial capability. But conditions have evolved in such a way that has led to the disintegration of that powerful country. We should study those events very carefully, because the cause of those events was the wrong course of action adopted by

that country in the past. The pure materialist way of thinking, harsh and inflexible views, and incorrect forecasts plunged the country in that direction. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Discusses Iraqi, Soviet Refugees

LD3008175991 Tehran IRNA in English 0541 GMT 29 Aug 91

[Text] Khorramshahr, Khuzestan Prov., Aug. 29, IRNA—More than 900,000 Iraqi refugees who fled to Iran last March after their uprising against the Baghdad government was crushed, have gradually returned home, Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdollah Nuri said here Wednesday. Speaking to IRNA, the interior minister added that less than 300,000 Iraqi refugees are still in Iran who would like to return home provided that the situation inside Iraq improves. He said, "there is no obstacle on the way of return of the other Iraqis living in Iran who wish to return to their country." In a related development, Hojjat ol-Eslami Nuri who arrived here Wednesday on a tour of the region, addressing the Friday prayer leaders of the city predicted that a flood of the Soviet refugees may arrive in Iran in the aftermath of the recent developments in the neighboring Soviet Union.

Larijani Discusses Outcome of Soviet Coup Attempt

LD2408090191

[Editorial Report] Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian at 1557 GMT on 22 August carries a 45-minute roundtable discussion on the recent events in the Soviet Union. The panel consists of Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani, the secretary of the foreign policy committee of the Supreme National Security Council, and Dr. Bavand, a university lecturer. The roundtable is moderated by an unidentified announcer.

Larijani is asked to comment on the position of the coup leaders in the political leadership of the Soviet Union. Larijani replies that the network that took power for three days had been present in the party, armed forces, and the KGB for over 70 years. Those within the network who had power realized that with Gorbachev's reforms, power was slipping away from them gradually. He goes on to say that the plotters were dissatisfied over losing control of certain republics and that they feared for the territorial integrity of the country. These were the grounds for the coup according to Larijani. He continues to list the calculations that the plotters would have made to carry out the coup, such as general dissatisfaction with the economy and Gorbachev gradually losing his popularity due to the economic problems of the Soviet Union.

On the role of the Army and the KGB in the coup, Larijani says that they were united in the coup and had a joint policy concerning the repression of the opposition, but they decided not to take action immediately. Another important point, according to Larijani, was the promise by the plotters to increase wages, cut prices, and

increase the availability of foodstuff. He says that he had reports that suddenly food had appeared on the shelves which meant that the KGB and the Army had kept them in storage for months and flooded the shops with them in order to accommodate the population. Larijani says that the turning point in the coup was when the KGB opposed crushing Yeltsin, who had rallied the opposition to the coup.

In response to a question on the impact Gorbachev had on the sociopolitical make-up of Soviet society, Larijani says that Gorbachev's policies led to considerable improvements in the society giving examples of freedom of the media and expression of religion. The most important change, however, was the decentralization of the economy toward a market economy. Larijani says that this is the point that defeated Gorbachev. He continues that the Soviet Union lacks capital, management, and technology to transform the economy. He doubts however, if those in power in the Soviet Union are willing to carry out the transformation. According to Larijani, this is the very reason for the West being reluctant to help the Soviet Union.

The presenter asks what Gorbachev may do now. Larijani replies that Gorbachev will use the coup attempt to get the West to increase aid to his country. Internally, Larijani says that Gorbachev had regarded the party, KGB, and the Army as his tools and that he had even used them in his rivalry with Yeltsin. However, Larijani believes that Gorbachev cannot rely on those organizations any longer. Gorbachev has the people but he needs some sort of an organization that can channel support to him. Therefore, Gorbachev may formulate a party system as in Western democracies.

With regard to Yeltsin, Larijani says that he would demand more powers from Gorbachev. This, according to Larijani, is natural because of the role he played during the coup and also because he commands just as much power as Gorbachev. To illustrate the point, Larijani says that Yeltsin gives orders to the military. Internationally too, Yeltsin's importance and prestige has increased while Gorbachev's has declined. Larijani predicts a new framework of power in the Soviet Union in which Gorbachev will have a more prestigious but less influential post with Yeltsin administering the executive branch. In that way, both Yeltsin and Gorbachev will be in positions of power but Gorbachev's influence will be markedly reduced. He further forecasts that the new Union treaty would be signed but went on to say that some of the republics would think that the treaty was not enough. The centrifugal forces have been strengthened and some republics, especially the baltics, will want full independence.

Talks Held With USSR on Power Industry Project

*LD3108115491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT
28 Aug 91*

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran has called for the implementation, as soon as possible, of power industry

projects and the speeding up of agreements undertaken by the Soviet (Technobrom) Export Company. According to an IRNA report, the issue was stressed during a meeting between Mr. Mordvinov, Soviet deputy minister for foreign economic relations; and Mr. Zangeneh, the energy minister.

According to the same report, during that meeting both sides emphasized the expansion of mutual relations and expressed the hope that a new chapter opens in bilateral cooperation in order for both sides to speed up the implementation of undertakings between the two sides at the start of activities of the standing subcommittee for energy and gas. The Soviet deputy minister of foreign economic relations came to Tehran at the beginning of the week. He has, so far, held meetings with a number of our country's economic officials.

KEYHAN Interviews Ambassador to France

*NC2608191091 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
14 Aug 91 pp 15, 27*

[Interview with Iranian Ambassador to France 'Ali Ahani by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [KEYHAN] Iran set certain conditions for the normalization of its relations with France in 1986, including the payment of funds owed it and an end to the support France provided to Iraq during the imposed war and to terrorist and anti-Iranian groups. Have these conditions been met; have, in fact, relations been normalized?

[Ahani] One cannot wait until all differences, including the financial ones, have been settled before restoring ties, as contacts and talks are necessary to settle these differences.

Accordingly, we had to establish healthy and balanced ties to create the atmosphere that would allow our differences to be settled and misunderstandings to be removed. As you have seen, the establishment of contact was followed by positive steps to find a final solution to all pending disagreements. Documents will be signed in the near future that will put these problems to rest for good. [passage omitted]

[KEYHAN] Relations between the two countries were established shortly after the three French hostages in Lebanon were released. Was there a connection between the two events?

[Ahani] The release of these hostages was not, of course, in our hands, but the Islamic Republic of Iran's moral influence with several Lebanese groups enabled it to take certain humanitarian measures and make certain mediation efforts, efforts which should result in the release of all hostages regardless of nationality.

For its part, France naturally took steps to obtain the release of its hostages. Without a doubt, this action and

the release of the hostages paved the way for relations to assume a healthier form. In view of the negative attitude that prevailed among the French public, largely due to the activities of anti-Iranian groups, it was difficult to convince them that we had nothing to do with the hostages, despite our clear statements to this effect. The hostages' release, however, eliminated their doubts and opened the way to new and effective steps. [passage omitted]

[KEYHAN] As regards Iran's relations with European countries, it is correct to say that these countries are the world's second superpower, if not its first, and our ties with them have never been healthy or balanced; that is, we cannot call them a two-way street, like Iran's relations with Kuwait. France has more ground to cover than does Iran. This means that whatever investment France makes in Iran will benefit it more than our investment does us. [as published]

[Ahani] We must expect that any country with which we establish and expand relations will seek to promote its own interests. We do this too; it is a two-way street. Again, this depends on each side's wisdom and its efforts to promote its interests as far as possible. [passage omitted]

[KEYHAN] In view of France's behavior since the Islamic Revolution and its support for the Ba'hist regime during the course of the imposed war, how can we talk so confidently about the improvement of ties with France?

[Ahani] There is reason to believe that these ties will improve. We forge relations with any country, not just France, with our eyes open, and we expand them as appropriate. Whenever we see that the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran are in the slightest jeopardy, then naturally such actions are halted. This is the way all countries conduct international relations. Once these relations have been established, we can objectively assess whether we have made the right moves and act accordingly. We hope these relations continue. [KEYHAN] The French media has carried allegations accusing the Iranian Government of involvement in Bakhtiar's murder. What do you think about this?

[Ahani] We issued a statement in Paris strongly denying any involvement on the part of the Islamic Republic of Iran in this affair. In my opinion, this propaganda, at a time when our ties with France were moving in a positive direction, was spread by groups which opposed the expansion of relations between the two countries and feared that this would impose greater restrictions on them. In addition, we cannot rule out the possibility of internecine differences and settling of accounts among the various rival groups.

The French police are continuing their investigation and are in a better position to provide the facts. What they have revealed so far, which has been published by the French press, indicates that one of the three suspects was a close associate of Bakhtiar's, whose name was on the

list of 15 people who could visit him whenever they wanted. On the day of the incident, Bakhtiar's son, who works for the French police and who apparently was in charge of Bakhtiar's security, signed a document authorizing this man to visit Bakhtiar accompanied by two other people. These are the only people known to have seen Bakhtiar before the murder.

[KEYHAN] Did the Islamic Republic invite Mitterrand to visit Tehran or did the French authorities express their wish for such a visit? What will be discussed during the meeting?

[Ahani] Mitterrand will visit Iran at the official invitation of President Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani. As with all such visits, talks will focus on two main points: bilateral relations and regional and international issues. In view of the developments in the first area, the French president's visit will be a turning point in the relations between the two countries. It is expected that it will be followed by even more serious steps in the long-term relations between the two countries.

As far as regional and international issues are concerned, Iran and France have prominent positions on the international scene and importance is attached to their views. Their similar stances on international issues have given the two sides the opportunity to exchange views and to discuss important international issues in an effort to resolve them. Mitterrand is expected to arrive in Iran in October.

[KEYHAN] The French press has reported that Bakhtiar's assassination could result in the postponement of this visit, something which some have already demanded. What is your opinion about this?

[Ahani] I believe that one of the reasons Bakhtiar was assassinated as arrangements for Mitterrand's visit to Tehran were beginning to be made was precisely to harm these broadening relations. Naturally those opposed to the ties and interests of the two countries would wish to overshadow this important visit, or at least to minimize any positive result. It is, however, impossible to imagine that the French Government—which takes a realistic approach and has its long-term interests well in view and which has also played a key part in bringing these relations to their present stage—will be influenced by the baseless manipulation of those who oppose ties between the two countries. [passage omitted]

[KEYHAN] What is the obstacle to a settlement of the financial differences between the two countries?

[Ahani] There had been certain legal and technical hitches along the way, which meant that the files on the matter had grown enormously and had become rather complicated. To simplify things, it was decided to draw up one document that would settle all aspects of the dispute. The necessary compromise has been reached over the amount of the debt France owes Iran; there is no disagreement on this point. What caused the delay in the

signing of the accord was that one of the clauses had certain technical and legal aspects which required further study, so that the agreement satisfies both sides and so that all issues are settled for once and for all when it is signed.

[KEYHAN] As the wording of this clause has not been revealed, foreign radios have put forward various theories. One says that the clause is related to Iran's 10 percent share in the nuclear firm Eurodif, while another claims that it pertained to Iran's request for a ban on activity by anti-Iranian groups in France. What is your opinion on the subject?

[Ahani] To answer the second part of your question first, I would like to say that the clause did not pertain to the financial disputes. As for our shares in Eurodif, they are still valid and the French side also accepts this. As for what some foreign media have said about demanding our share in the form of uranium, this is not true and is rather outdated.

[KEYHAN] A LE MONDE analysis claimed the differences were over the Eurodif shares and cited some diplomats and political observers as saying that France should naturally question Iran's request for enriched uranium when it does not have a nuclear plant. Is this the problem?

[Ahani] Newspapers publish things to serve their own ends or to create misunderstandings, and this is a separate issue altogether. Furthermore, it is completely untrue that the differences and delay arose over uranium. [passage omitted]

[KEYHAN] Is it possible that an agreement on the financial differences will be signed by the two presidents?

[Ahani] No. This is not the kind of issue to be resolved at the presidential level. We hope that this will be done prior to the visit, at the foreign ministers' level. [passage omitted]

[KEYHAN] We have extensive economic and trade relations with France, including the manufacture of Peugeot and Renault automobiles. Will this cooperation expand further?

[Ahani] When we review the volume of trade exchanges between Iran and France for the past three years—that is, since relations were established—we see that the value of these exchanges for 1990 is over \$2 billion, a 23.7-percent increase over the figure for 1989 and four-sevenths [as published] times higher than that for 1988. The value of our oil exports alone tell an even better story. In 1990 we exported 9 million tons of oil to France, which represented 12.2 percent of all France's oil needs; in fact, we are France's second largest oil supplier. This figure was only 60,000 tons in 1988 when relations were established.

Agreements on various other projects have been signed, and still more are under discussion, including some in the fields of petrochemicals, energy, transport, and so on.

The French Government has provided various incentives to French companies to encourage them to play a more active role in Iran's reconstruction projects, including a revision of insurance rates for projects undertaken in Iran. It has lowered the premiums, thereby facilitating French economic activity in Iran. Some French companies are still not satisfied, however, and demand still further reductions because they still do not have the ability to compete with other countries. On the other hand, the French Government has removed the ceiling of restrictions on credit and finance facilities for Iranian reconstruction projects, which indicates that the French Government wants a more active approach. In view of the talks now under way, France will be able to attain a special position in our foreign relations and in the implementation of Iran's reconstruction projects. [passage omitted]

[KEYHAN] Will Iran use French experts in its economic plans and reconstruction programs? If so, how many will be involved?

[Ahani] Some specialized projects in the field of petrochemicals, oil, energy, and so on require that certain equipment be installed and complexes built, and foreign specialists are need to operate them. Some are already in Iran and working on various projects, but I do not have any exact figures. [passage omitted]

[KEYHAN] France exports extensively to Iran. What kinds of goods are included in these exports?

[Ahani] France accounts for nearly half of all Iran's imports, which include certain commodities used in industrial production. Some essential goods have also been imported since last year, such as meat and so on. As French companies begin working on certain projects, more of these imports will be of the kind that is used in industrial production.

[KEYHAN] What does the Islamic Republic of Iran export to France?

[Ahani] Because of Iran's economic structure, most of its exports not just to France but to most other countries unfortunately consist of oil. The French authorities as well as French companies, however, are very interested in diversifying Iran's exports to France and will welcome non-oil exports. Success here depends on our success in obtaining a market, so that non-oil exports can increase without causing any disequilibrium.

Bakhtiar Extradition Request Allegations Denied

LD2508004691 Tehran IRNA in English 0628 GMT
24 Aug 91

[Text] Paris, 24 August, IRNA—Iranian Embassy here on Friday categorically denied allegations that Tehran had requested Paris to extradite the defunct shah's last prime minister, Shapur Bakhtiar. Contacting IRNA, the Embassy spokesman said, "reports printed in certain

French newspapers are in continuation of biased rumors and accusations attributed to Iran in recent days." Also, French Foreign Ministry spokesman Daniel Bernard denied the extradition reports on Friday and said, "no request exists in our files on extradition of Bakhtiar." Certain Paris-based newspapers in an attempt to accuse Iran of involvement in the 6 August assassination of Bakhtiar, claimed that Tehran had even submitted a request to Paris demanding extradition of Bakhtiar.

Regional Affairs

MKO Members Describe Life in Iraqi Camps

91AS1564A Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 3 Sep 91 pp 1, 2

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 2 (IRNA)—A group of 23 repentant members of the counterrevolutionary "Munafiqeen Khalq Organization" (MKO), who have recently managed to escape the MKO camps in Iraq and return to Iran, described living conditions of MKO members in Iraq as unbearable.

The group speaking in a press conference here Sunday, printed in the morning daily ABRAR Monday, talked about their situation in Iraq.

A former MKO advocate told reporters that those who decided to turn away from the group were treated harshly.

"They (the repentants) would be jailed, beaten and tortured both physically and mentally," said one of the former MKO members who wished to remain anonymous.

The MKO ring leaders by employing fabricated propaganda were working hard to recruit new members, he added.

Most of the participants at the conference were among those captured by the Iraqi forces during 1980-88 imposed war who had later joined the organization lured by its deceitful propaganda.

"MKO leaders promised us on the condition that we took part in Mersad operation," (a clash between the MKO and the Iranian forces in western fronts on Iran-Iraqi border) launched by Munafiqeen in mid-summer 1988, we would be free to leave Iraq for any destination we chose," another former MKO member noted.

"But," he added, "as soon as the operation began, we were threatened that we should either fight or remain in Iraq until we rot."

He said that the main reason for joining the counterrevolutionary group was financial problems stemming from his joblessness.

Kordestan Radio Reports 19 Aug Operations

NC0109135191 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian
Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Excerpts] A report from the Voice of Iranian Kordestan correspondent in the party committee in Mahabad District says that following the violent, enemy-shattering attack by the peshmerga forces of Martyr Pishva in the (Chumeh Majidkhan), during which a unit of the enemy's forces was routed, the enemy sought to avenge this defeat and pursued the peshmergas.

On 19 August, the combatant peshmergas of the Shahid Pishva forces were in the region of (Ash-e Jangil) in the (Gowch) District of Mahabad. They were informed from the ever-vigilant and sharp-eyed observation posts that the enemy's force of 10 armored vehicles—supported by two 106-mm guns, one Katyusha missile launcher, and some mortar launchers—were at the slopes of (Hakidarreh) village near the hills of the (Gowrk) area in Mahabad.

The Democratic brothers decided to launch operations against the mullah's regime in memory of the martyrs of the DPK [Democratic Party of Kordestan] of Iran in the year 1370 [year beginning 21 March 1991] and to defeat the repressive mercenary forces. [passage omitted]

The blitzkrieg by the valiant Democrats was so unexpected and surprising that the aggressive mullahs' forces had no recourse but to flee in all directions shouting and moaning. The abject forces of the mullahs did not have the power to resist, dropping their weapons and fleeing toward the valleys of the (Ash-e Jangil) Heights.

The peshmergas' first unit bore down on the heights in the district with force and began consolidating their positions. The second unit came like a desert storm and flattened the battlefield and chased the fleeing cowardly enemy to the village of (Hakidarreh).

The third unit, which was the hope and aspiration of the first and second units, opened fire with its machine guns and other weapons on the enemy's strongholds, and with its accurate and useful firing on the enemy's artillery units and its personnel, forced them to flee. [passage omitted]

The enemy appealed for air cover in its utter abjectness and hopelessness and soon two helicopter gunships appeared above the scene of operations but could not carry out any operational maneuvers and could only manage to patrol overhead.

In the course of the brilliant operations by the DPK peshmergas, at least 40 of the enemy's soldiers were killed or wounded, the bodies of 20 of whom remained on the battle scene, 11 of whom were identified. [passage omitted]

The booty seized by the peshmergas in the course of the operations launched in memory of the DPK personnel martyred in the year 1370 is as follows:

1. Two BK-30 [as heard] machine guns

2. Three RPG-7 missile launchers.
3. One Kalashnikov machine gun
4. Fourteen Kalashnikov rifles.
5. Fifty instruments for loading rifles.
6. Fifteen RPG-7 missiles.
7. One thousand cartridges for BK-30s
9. [number as heard] Three wireless sets PAC-77 [as heard]
10. A considerable quantity of documents, military papers and miscellaneous (?articles). [passage omitted]

Aim of Six-Party Meeting on Afghanistan Viewed
NC2208153191 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 19 Aug 91 p 2

[Editorial: "The Afghan Question Again"]

[Text] After ten years of heroic resistance against the Soviet military aggression upon Afghanistan, the oppressed nation of that country succeeded in getting through a stage of their Islamic move to form an independent Islamic system of government based on the votes of the people. Since the Soviet Union withdrew its troops from Afghanistan countless incidents have taken place in that country the most important of which are as follows:

- An unsuccessful operation to liberate the town of Jalalabad.
- The formation of the self-declared interim government by Afghan Mojahedin and its failure to attract all struggling forces because of some foreign intervention and existence of some monopolistic tendencies in the government.
- The abortive military coup of 1989 by General Shahnawaz.
- A plan to hold a general election inside Afghanistan and efforts made by certain Afghan Mojahedin groups to realize it which all got nowhere.
- The failure of Mojahedin groups to achieve unity.

After a while, the above developments strengthen the notion that a political solution either as a substitute for the military one or along with it can help the Mojahedin achieve their goals. With the start of the Persian Gulf war, all political initiatives and moves taken by countries neighboring Afghanistan or by Afghan opposition groups were postponed for months. Shortly after the Persian Gulf conflict came to its end, the UN Secretary-General offered a 5-point peace plan for the political settlement of the Afghan issue which contained a cease-fire and the start of face-to-face talks between the belligerent parties (the Kabul regime and all Afghan dissident groups) as well as holding of general elections.

The plan has been, more or less, accepted by the parties to the conflict. This was followed by a quadrilateral

meeting of Iran, Pakistan and leaders of Afghan Mojahedin groups based in both countries. The meeting which was held in Islamabad focused on finding ways of solving the Afghan crisis. But all of a sudden, the United States which has a claim to guardianship in all regional issues interfered in Afghanistan's internal problems with its ambassador to Pakistan participating in a press conference jointly held by the Iranian and Pakistani foreign ministers in Islamabad.

This was followed by the U.S. support for a joint statement issued by Tehran and Islamabad following the quadrilateral meeting. Later, a Pakistan official proposed a meeting of Iran, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, the United States, the Soviet Union and the United Nations in a bid to realize the U.S. [as published] chief's peace plan.

Some Pakistani officials as well genuine revolutionary, Islamic forces of Afghanistan believe such plans are doomed to defeat because it requires that Iran and the United States sit at the same negotiating table, something the Iranian side will certainly reject because it violates the causes of the Islamic Republic. Pakistani officials should notice such an important point.

Some informed observers raise a possibility that the aim in proposing a six-sided meeting containing both Tehran and Washington may be to omit the Islamic Republic from the political equations of Afghanistan, reasoning that in the event the United States attends such talks, the Islamic Republic will boycott it thus paving the way for a laic government to come to power in Kabul as agreed upon by both Washington and Moscow. Future developments will disclose Washington's new conspiracies against the Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan.

'Realistic' Afghan Peace Proposal Expected

LD2808211391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network 0958 GMT 28 Aug 91

[Excerpts] The second joint session of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, and Afghan Mojahedin leaders opened today in Tehran. At the session, our country's foreign minister; Akram Zaki, the head of Pakistan's foreign ministry; and representatives of the Afghan Mojahedin based in Tehran and Peshawar will discuss the latest Afghan political and military developments, and they will exchange views on ways of ending that country's 13 year-long crisis. [passage omitted]

Today's talks are, undoubtedly, very important in view of the current sensitive conditions and the recent developments in the Soviet Union because, at the moment, the idea that Moscow should not support the regime ruling Kabul after recent Soviet developments is gaining strength among Soviet official; in which case, there will be a political vacuum in Afghanistan's developments, and all Mojahedin groups and Afghanistan's Muslim people must resolve the vacuum. Unity of opinion

between and adoption of joint stances by all Afghan resistance groups is, therefore, of special importance at this epoch-making juncture. [passage omitted]

It is expected that today's session—which is in fact the last effort by the involved parties to examine, without interference from other powers, various viewpoints, especially the UN secretary general's recent proposal—will be able to provide the groundwork for a realistic peace proposal acceptable to all Mojahedin groups, and that it will take adequate measures to end the differences and disputes within the resistance movement.

The two friendly and brother countries, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, are determined to help the Muslim people and Mojahedin of Afghanistan in a joint and coordinated manner to achieve an honorable solution to the Afghan crisis, and to increase their efforts in line with the support given by the Islamic Conference [Organization]. There is no doubt at this stage of the history of the proud struggles of Afghanistan's Muslim people that a presence in the political arena is as valuable as fighting in the military arena and can play an important role in the ultimate victory of the Muslim people of Afghanistan and the establishment of an Islamic and non-aligned government in that country.

SALAM on Ties To Iraq, Saddam's Future

*NC2308190091 Tehran SALAM in Persian
19 Aug 91 p 12*

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Relations between Iran and Iraq were on the mend last year until the Baghdad regime's occupation of Kuwait and the start of the oil war, with their attendant effects on international public opinion, caused them to become strained once again. Overt condemnation of the Iraqi leadership intensified with the weakening of the Iraqi regime after Saddam's defeat in the oil war, while the internal unrest in Iraq—that is the Shiite uprising in the south and the exodus of the Kurds in the north—resulted in the reemergence of acrimonious relations between the two countries.

By reactivating the radio of the Monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq], committing some border violations, and launching propaganda attacks, the Iraqi regime is now trying to express its displeasure with the Islamic Republic of Iran's concurrence with international organizations. For its part, the silence of the Islamic Republic of Iran indicates that it supports the Security Council's stance against Iraq.

What is aggravating this silence is the doubt the West has used its mass media to cast over Iraq's future, with many Western officials predicting the imminent collapse of the Baghdad regime. Some people within the country are also claiming that it is only a matter of four or so months before Saddam is toppled. This climate of propaganda will naturally affect the ties between the two countries, and we see that some are betting on Iraq's collapse. This

becomes all the more meaningful when we recall our past predictions, the most recent of which concerned the Romanian dictator.

Despite the Western propaganda, however, there does not seem to be any evidence that the elusive Iraqi regime is truly on the verge of collapse. The Ba'th Party remains firmly in power.

After trying the military option, the Westerners are now pinning their hopes on the economic siege and the humiliation they heap on the Iraqi regime every day. Through their repeated violations of Iraq's sovereignty, they hope that some military officers or party members will be shamed into taking steps to end their disgrace.

They would, therefore, be satisfied even with the alternative [preceding word in English] of the Ba'th Party's continuing in power. Nevertheless, there are no clear indications that the regime is weakening.

Perhaps one of the main reasons for our skepticism here is our experience during the imposed war, when our people waited in vain for the collapse of the Iraqi regime repeatedly predicted by our mass media.

What is more important than the future of the Iraqi regime is the future of the U.S. presence in the region, which everything indicates will continue. Oil is the most important factor here. The West's continued access to Persian Gulf oil guarantees the permanent presence of oil consumers at oil wells, a situation that is allowed to go unchallenged because of the inertia of the region's competing countries. The West thus not only wants to emasculate Iraq, but also to keep the others comatose.

The shift in the U.S. area of operations from southern Iraq to the north should be seen in this light. It does not want any stones to be thrown near the glass house of oil, and therefore wants to move the action to a mountainous area where stones can be thrown freely.

In any event, our system's choice between the extremes of optimism or pessimism will depend on whatever best ensures our country's national interests. In order to achieve a happy medium, there are certain factors which need to be assessed, and this will be done at a later date.

Algerian 'Campaign' Against Sanctities Denounced

*NC0309152991 Tehran ABRAR in Persian
24 Aug 91 p 12*

[Unattributed commentary: "Blind Hostility"]

[Text] Certain Algerian publications have once again thrown down the gauntlet for a pointless quarrel by profaning the sanctities of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

This new campaign reveals the profound hatred felt by that country's press lords toward Islamic beliefs and values. At this stage, it is well worth examining why certain Arab circles have become especially sensitive to

the Islamic Republic of Iran's reaction to world events. We wonder what tactic or maneuver Iran has used, apart from its cultural influence and honored position among Muslims, to elicit the wrath of Algeria's press.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has been the target of attacks and treachery by the East and the West for a decade now, for the sole crime of having raised the slogan of Islam and become the only sanctuary of its superior culture and ideology.

No other ideology, no other mode of political or philosophical thought, can compete with this culture. It has been the cause of all Iran's achievements. No amount of boasting by Algerian publications will suffice to conceal the weaknesses of their own kind of thinking.

Algeria's current campaign should be seen as an attempt to lull its people into a false sense of security in the hope that this will win support for the country's policies. The fact is that Algeria's press is unable to present to its people a program that will satisfy their legitimate aspirations. A crisis of legitimacy is brewing.

The growth of Islam in Algeria indicates what form this crisis will take. Those who oppose this trend are seeking to divert attention by pointing to an external enemy so as to eclipse their own weaknesses.

For the past decade, however, Islam has shown how it has conquered the hearts of all Muslims and blazed the way for them. A ploy may find a temporary solution and postpone the inevitable, but the future ultimately belongs to Islam.

It would be better if Algerian publications sought to enlighten their Muslim people. Rather than try to minimize or ignore their own shortcomings and erroneous way of thinking in terms of internationalism, they should promote discussion of Islamic culture, draw on the priceless experiences of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and seek to respond to the emotional needs of the world's Muslims.

The yearning for Islam has become a tidal wave sweeping away all before it. Any opposition is bound to be suicidal.

Paper on Concern Over Developments in Algeria

LD0409124491 Tehran IRNA in English 1040 GMT
4 Sep 91

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 4, IRNA—A morning English daily editorialized on closer Iran-Algeria cooperation and said Iran welcomes the emergence of free political atmosphere in Algeria.

TEHRAN TIMES referring to this week's visit of the Iranian foreign minister to Algiers noted "Velayati's two-day visit to Algeria and his negotiations with top-ranking Algerian authorities are of special significance within the framework of bilateral relations between the two countries."

Praising free political atmosphere in Algeria, the daily went on saying "Iran rejects, as a matter of principle, any interference in the internal affairs of other countries, but at the same time Iran is quite pleased with the emergence of the free political atmosphere in Algeria and believes the democratization of conditions in Algeria was a judicious and progressive measure on the part of the country's leaders and also Iran wishes for the continuation of the democratization trend in Algeria."

The daily added that during the Persian Gulf crisis of last year, differences of opinion and political schism emerged among some of the Islamic states and superpowers missed no opportunity to use the situation to their own advantage, said the paper.

Turning to the great need for close cooperation between the two countries, the daily concluded by saying "in spite of Iran's lasting sense of solidarity with Algeria, and the fairly impartial stance Algeria adopted during 8 years of the imposed war, Iran follows current developments in Algeria with great concern. And specifically Iran is hopeful that there is no truth to the news relative to the unacceptable conditions in which some religio-political leaders are being kept."

Clandestine Reports Attack on Iran-Turkey Pipeline

NC2608085291 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian
Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 25 Aug 91

[Text] The Mahabad party committee reports that at 2300 on 15 Mordad [6 August], the Iran-Turkey gas pipeline three kilometers from the Hamzeh headquarters in Shahr-e Veyran fields in Mahabad was blown up by the cadres and peshmergas of the Martyr Pishva force of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kordestan. The fire that resulted lasted until the afternoon of 16 Mordad [7 August]. The regime's officials were unable to repair the pipeline and resume the transfer of gas for three days.

It should be pointed out that despite the fact that this pipeline is heavily controlled and guarded by the regime's forces, it has been blown up several times by the democratic peshmergas.

Tehran Ready To Help Rebuild Beirut

LD2708222591 Tehran IRNA in English 0932 GMT
27 Aug 91

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 27, IRNA—Iran's Construction Jihad Minister Gholam Reza Foruzesh in a meeting with general secretary of Lebanon's Hizballah Seyyed 'Abbas Musawi here Monday night announced Tehran's readiness to help Beirut rebuild and reconstruct its damaged areas. Foruzesh added that the Ministry can dispatch a number of teams to Lebanon to help the country in its reconstruction efforts. Briefing Foruzesh on clashes in Lebanon, Musawi hailed Iran's stand on the Palestine issue and expressed hope that Palestinian and Lebanese Muslims overcome their problems through practical

means and all-out support of the world Muslims. Musawi heading a delegation comprising members of Hizballah leadership council arrived in Tehran last Thursday and has so far held talks with several Iranian officials including President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Internal Affairs

Plots Against Islam Condemned by Khamene'i

LD2208073991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 21 Aug 91

[Excerpts] The esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, arrived in Khorramabad this morning to meet various strata of the people and the tribesmen of Lorestan Province. He was welcomed by the zealous and martyr-nurturing people of this steadfast city and by the local officials of the province. [passage omitted]

Addressing a gathering of thousands of families of the martyrs, the missing-in-action, a group of selfless devotees, and the freed POWs of Lorestan Province, he referred to the defeat inflicted by the Islamic revolution on the arrogant and hegemonist powers. Ayatollah Khamene'i graciously said that in the face of our risen nation the enemy is helpless; and by maintaining their spirituality, faith, unity and particular vigilance that they have demonstrated since the start of the revolution, the people should remain in the arena of the struggle. [passage omitted]

Stressing that the United States and other arrogant groups of the world are afraid of Islam and are determined to destroy it, his eminence added: The youth in the mobilization, the Guard Corps, and the Army, and your courageous sons, succeeded, by sacrificing their lives, in defeating the hegemonist powers of our era. Praise be to God, the blood of the youth of this martyr-nurturing land was not wasted and your young men managed to bring honor to Islam and the Muslims.

The guardians of the Muslims' cause warned: No one should imagine that the superpowers have reconciled themselves with Islam and there is no need for the Islamic ummah's resistance vis-a-vis its enemies. [as heard] Today, the enemies of Islam are busy hatching big plots against the ummah of Islam, and through economic sanctions, false propaganda, and the promotion of corruption and prostitution in our Islamic society, the enemies are determined to uproot the glorious and firm tree of the Islamic revolution. But they do not realize that our nation remains awake, alert, and steadfast, as before, supporting Islam and the Islamic revolution.

In conclusion, the leader of the Islamic revolution thanked the selfless devotees and the released POWs and graciously said: The devotees donated their health for the sake of God, and the dear POWs defended Islam for

years on the frontline, that is, in the prison camps of the Iraqi regime. They, like the missing-in-action, deserve a good reward by being placed next to the saints [as received] of Islam.

Khamene'i Comments on Lorestan Visit

NC2308072491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Text] At the end of his visit to Lorestan Province, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution, gave an exclusive interview to our correspondent in Khorramabad and described the people of Lorestan as the true soldiers of the revolution. He pointed out that with the implementation of 12 important projects and more than 120 small- and medium-range plans in the province with billions of rials in allocations, the province has a prosperous future.

The leader of the Islamic Revolution stated the following on the reason for his visit to the province: This province is one of the country's deprived areas and it was previously stated that we will pay regular visits to the country's deprived areas. The visit to Lorestan Province and the meeting with the region's people, as well as studying their problems and difficulties on the spot, are in line with that policy.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i added in the interview with our correspondent: The people of Lorestan Province are among the country's most courageous and zealous people and they displayed great courage and devotion during the eight-year imposed war. They sent many combatants to the fronts throughout the war and gave Islam many martyrs.

[Begin recorded telephone report by unidentified correspondent] The esteemed leader added: With all their devotion and bravery and because of their minimal expectations, the people of Lorestan have increased the government's sense of duties vis-a-vis the province, and with the possibilities placed at its disposal the government intends to solve the problems of the country's deprived areas at a faster pace. The leader pointed out that starting this year the implementation of 120 development, services, cultural, artistic, and sports projects will grant new impetus to Lorestan and said that among the most important projects we can list the following: turning the Lorestan higher education complex into the provincial university for training specialists; the creation of a cultural and sports complex for training the area's youths; the implementation of the plan for expanding Khorramabad Airport; the construction of two boarding schools in the tribal areas to enhance the tribal students' talents; the construction of 100 schools in Lorestan's deprived areas; the construction of a 96-bed hospital in Ezna; the construction of 50 organizational houses to attract experts to Lorestan; the implementation of gas distribution projects to the province's cold regions; the completion of the two highways linking Khorramabad to

Kuhdasht and Khorramabad to Sepid Dasht; the construction of an animal breeding research center because of Lorestan's animal breeding capabilities; the creation of five teacher training centers for native teachers; and the construction of at least 100 handicraft workshops where local forces will be employed.

Pointing out that during this visit \$5 million in foreign exchange has been allocated by the government for the purchase of Lorestan Province's hospital equipment, his eminence the leader stated: Because of the great potentials in Lorestan, it is hoped that the implementation of these projects will be a good prologue and paint a prosperous horizon for the deprived Province of Lorestan. [end recording]

Continuing the interview, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i stated that Mr. Mirzadeh, vice president for executive affairs, who was present during the trip will follow up the projects and that the credit allocations for these projects during the current [Iranian] year amounts to hundreds of millions of tomans. He also added that in addition, 50 projects for the area will be followed up by the office for the affairs of deprived areas, which is attached to the President's Office, and that God willing the implementation of these projects will begin this year and next year.

The leader of the Islamic Revolution clarified that in addition to these projects, 70 more including the construction of highways, bridges, baths, and water distribution networks for the villages will be followed up by the leader's office and that the implementation of these projects will grant new impetus to the province.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i stressed that the path for the government's services is open and that the government also welcomes the basic plans that are implemented in the deprived areas and stated: Our government is truly a government which serves the people. Of course, the esteemed president is greatly commendable and, thank God, the ministers, too—as far as we have seen—are very interested in serving the people.

Our correspondent reports that on orders of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution, the necessary foreign exchange and rial credits amounting to 3.50 billion rials have been allocated by the government for the implementation of development, cultural, educational, and health projects in Lorestan Province. Another report indicates that the amount of 1,822,900,000 rials has been allocated by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution, for the construction of educational centers, highways, water and electricity distribution networks, and other public utility projects for the villages and the deprived areas in Lorestan Province.

Yesterday afternoon His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i went to the residence of the representative of the supreme jurisconsult and the Friday Imam of Khorramabad and met with the faithful and revolutionary

people of Lorestan Province. During this ceremony, which was held in an atmosphere of sincerity, various strata of Khorramabad people were received by the leader of the Islamic Revolution and expressed their affection and support to his eminence. Also a number of the people tendered their requests and problems to the leader of the Islamic Revolution and his eminence issued the necessary orders for studying these requests and problems.

Paper Urges Ethical Economic, Political Behavior

*NC2308081091 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
10 Aug 91 pp 1, 16*

[Editorial by Akbar Nabavi: "A Request to the People"]

[Text] 1. Yesterday, 9 August, will remain imprinted as an unforgettable day in the history of the presidency of Hashemi-Rafsanjani. On this day, in a laudable move, the president laid before his deputies the economic and political shortcomings and thus began a positive tradition of involving the masses of the people in the important issues of the country.

With the awareness of these issues by the millions of people, the path to eliminate these problems can be created. Taking the people into confidence has unfortunately been relegated to oblivion by most of the administrative apparatus.

In the past, we have had to bitterly endure the results of such forgetfulness. In the current circumstances, when certain political currents are seeking to undermine public faith in the system by disseminating false reports and analyses, reports which present a true picture of the situation will prove most effective in motivating the people to make efforts and endeavors.

2. Unfortunately in the aftermath of the war, the people were filled with expectations that they should immediately commence with economic improvement. In conditions in which the country's reconstruction has concomitant problems, no less formidable to combat than war, it is only the determination and strong resolve of the people which can surmount this phase.

In such circumstances, if even the slightest misconception becomes ingrained in people's minds, as a result of which the people's expectations heighten, and, in the event of their not being fulfilled, a certain diffidence may take root in the various strata of society.

This shattering diffidence, which replaces realities with idealistic cure-alls, will be slippery under the feet of the system.

Fortunately these unprincipled expectations and the attritive propaganda have been rejected by the president, and he even asked the people to prepare themselves for a greater spiraling of prices in the future.

Those who are aware of economic issues or at least are familiar with the history of nations which have put a

devastating war behind them, will know that violent economic crises emerge in their wake, and this increases the duty of the various strata of society in those nations.

In fact, in the course of the years after a war, the quest for an equilibrium between "expectations" and "endeavor" is observed. Therefore, instead of accelerating efforts, it would be better to lower the level of expectations. There are numerous historical examples for gaining an understanding of this important phenomenon. For example, during Bismarck's era, the people worked with the maximum quantitative attendance in one work shift and made immense effort and took it on their shoulders to assist in the economic growth of the country. Following World War II, Japan had increased the working hours for some years in a sort of "national mobilization" for reconstruction after the devastation of the war, and for the growth and economic expansion of their country.

In our country, on the contrary, there are some who are raising slogans against this very principle and are diverting public opinion toward a direction in which, instead of playing their real part in reconstruction, they are more concerned with greater "consumption." Without a doubt, this trend is the most dangerous one that a country can adopt in a postwar period.

If the "work culture" is not corrected and the need for greater work and activity in the reconstruction era not fully comprehended, and if "national production" does not liberate the currently ailing economy from the fetters of oil, the society will never see economic equilibrium.

In this regard, the country's officials should set an example by first "doing more work" and then should encourage the people to do so.

3. Without a doubt, in order to ensure that the Five-Year Plan is successfully implemented, it is necessary that miscellaneous obstacles in this path be eliminated.

One of these obstacles is the violation of the principles of justice by some businessmen and merchants in the sale of goods to the people, and who have been warned by the president.

Similarly, most of the executive departments of the government take measures, some of which contravene the decisions of the Supreme Economic Council, and this impedes the supply of certain goods and services to the people. They also do not distribute goods to the people and various departments at fixed prices, and thus the consumer is forced to purchase all commodities at exorbitant prices.

The result of such destructive measures is that pressure is exerted, more than ever, on the reformative programs of the government as well as on the masses of the people. Therefore, in order to prohibit such actions the president should contemplate some basic remedies and all violators should be publicly proclaimed.

Anti-Regime Demonstrations Reported in Tehran

TA2608095191 (*Clandestine*) *Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian* 0330 GMT 25 Aug 91

[Text] Just as in previous days, Tehran yesterday witnessed widespread people's demonstrations against the Islamic Republic regime. According to the latest reports, in yesterday's demonstrations, which were staged in most of the city's neighborhoods and districts, the people chanted slogans against Khamene'i and Hashemi-Rafsanjani and in favor of the establishment of freedom and democracy, Reza Shah II, and the Flag of Freedom Organization. Our fellow combatants have reported that thousands of people demonstrated yesterday in and around Tehran's Fowziyeh Square as well as in Shahbaz Street while shouting "Death to the Islamic Republic regime."

Another report indicates that on 22 August the agents of Khamene'i and Hashemi-Rafsanjani set fire to several shops in Tehran's Naser Khosrow Street. Meanwhile, it has been reported that the prices of essential commodities have risen sharply in Tehran in recent days.

KEYHAN Stresses Harmful Effects of Discord

NC2708182091 *Tehran KEYHAN in Persian* 15 Aug 91 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "Eliminating Discord and Stressing Common Points"]

[Excerpts] The heads of the judicial, legislative, and executive branches and officials of the press met with His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the great leader of the revolution, yesterday and listened to his clear exhortations and remarks in an atmosphere full of sincerity and warmth.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i gave his audience very clear and important guidelines on the three main points he discussed. These were: 1. The need for political parties to refrain from aggravating differences.

2. The need for officials to live simply, so as to create rapport with the people. 3. The West's organized and multifaceted cultural assault on the cultural values of the revolution.

Although these guidelines were quite clear and an ultimate warning to the audience, it would still be useful to discuss them here in view of the present sensitive circumstances. Let us begin with the first point. [passage omitted]

The need to refrain from unprincipled and factional tensions despite the plots that have been or are being hatched by our enemies does not require further elaboration. Is there anyone who does not know that nothing gives greater encouragement to the enemy than any indications of malice or hatred among ourselves?

A people united among themselves and with their officials becomes an invincible force before which even the

strongest powers will have to bow down. It was on this very basis that the Islamic Revolution achieved its victory.

Dissent in any form or by any means serves the interests of the United States, even if it is couched in the most sacred of slogans. The pretext of opposing deviation from the "imam's line" and an undermining of its values cannot be used to attack individuals, organizations, or the system, nor can resorting to claims of defending the "Velayat" become a pretext for seizing any opportunity to crush one's rival and ignite the fires of political discord.

Why is it that some are so concerned about adherence to values and sanctities that they use them to malign their rivals? Why are some so willing to sling mud at others? Perhaps journalists are in greater danger of doing this than other people. If we become careless and do not adhere strictly to the truth, if our pens are not filled with the ink of sympathy and support for the system, then what medium can provide more fertile ground for the weeds of discord to flourish than newspapers?

This does not mean that newspapers should not have opinions or that they should shirk their responsibility of criticizing and warning the government, the Majles, the judiciary, and the factions, as such a situation would be harmful. Since, however, "man is responsible for his own actions..." [preceding phrase in Arabic], we can easily gauge whether we should criticize or take revenge, whether we should merely point things out or demand explanations, whether we should warn or deal a more forceful blow.

While we do not wish to accuse any particular individual, faction, or newspaper, we cannot ignore that certain people speak or write thoughtlessly, blurting out whatever enters their head as if their reason for being were nothing more than to sow discord and spread discontent. Why is this? [passage omitted]

We stress that we cannot remain silent or indifferent in the face of errors or of behavior which merits criticism, but a proper assessment here is not difficult. Should criticism and warnings result in the rectification of matters and the atonement of errors? In the words of the great leader of the revolution: "Anxiety should not be created among the people to give the United States and its stooges the opportunity to be more avaricious."

SALAM Calls For Freedom of Expression, Unity

*NC0309112891 Tehran SALAM in Persian 22 Aug 91
pp 2, 11*

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The problem that has always been present—but is not the only one in society today—specifically, the problem of differences among individuals and, most naturally, among groups, whether clerical, from the university, or from all sectors of

society, including workers, bazaar merchants, or guild members, is an inevitable one. What can be done to find the fundamental solution for this problem beyond advising an adherence to piety?

In other words, there are those who accuse others, insult them, and denounce them (of course, there are times when it is known that the speaker or writer has certain differences and is writing or speaking in an effort to eliminate the other from the scene). It is clear that the situation needs to be remedied, if not through advice, then with legal instruments which one can use to resort to litigation.

If genuine differences exist, however, what can be done so that the people who have opposing beliefs on the various issues pertaining to an Islamic society can air their views on management, economic, cultural, and foreign policy matters without generating the tension that is so dangerous for the entire system?

Perhaps some people believe that the solution is to continuously repeat that we have no differences so that the enemy cannot capitalize on them. Is this an effective solution? Would it be logical to assume that 100 percent of the members of a society is unanimous in its opinion on all the trends and executive methods being used? If we claim this to be true, will the world believe it? Does Islam or do the people of the world say that everyone should think the same way and agree on everything?

The more we insist that we have no differences, the more it will aggravate matters, because no one believes that only one group expresses its opinion while all the rest remain silent; they will more likely conclude that other groups are not allowed to speak or express their ideas. If we spread propaganda to this effect, it would be in opposition to the reality of an Islamic society, freedom, and religious jurisprudence. It is obligatory for Muslims to express their opinion on all matters, and this is how it should be. Praise be to God, our society enjoys this freedom.

We should create a situation which enables individuals and groups to express their opinions freely (of course, within the framework of the principles of the Islamic system that have been clearly outlined in the Constitution and in the customary rules and regulations). This is what should be done. When opinions are expressed in this manner, it does not cause society to suffer apprehension and distress, but, on the contrary, it facilitates growth throughout society. Nor are the system's officials harmed by the expression of such opinions, and they can continue to perform their duties.

These intelligent people, who are loyal to Islam and the hallowed system of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and, at least, to the interests of the country in which they reside, should not, however, imagine that the best path involves remaining aloof and acting independently, because, most of the time, society's interest lies in presenting a united front. [passage omitted]

'Jury for Press' To Start Work

LD3008182491 Tehran IRNA in English 0924 GMT
28 Aug 91

[Text] Tehran, 28 [as published] IRNA—Members of the Jury for the Press have been appointed and will soon start work, press deputy at the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mohsen Aminzadeh said Tuesday afternoon. The step has been taken in compliance with the last week request of representatives of some 50 print media throughout the country who in a statement urged the Ministry to take steps for formation of the Press Jury in accordance with Articles 24 and 168 of the Constitution. Article 168 stipulates that investigations on political and press offenses should be conducted in open sessions at judicial courts at the presence of a jury and, according to Article 24, the press enjoys freedom of expression except in cases where such a freedom is proved to be contrary to the Islamic principles and public rights.

Aminzadeh added in compliance with Article 31 of the press bill ratified by the revolutionary Council in August 1979, minister of culture and Islamic guidance, Tehran's mayor and head of Tehran's courts met last week and appointed for a period of two years from among various classes including university professors, doctors, journalists, lawyers, guildsmen, craftsmen, workers and farmers. He added the jury is the third since the 1979 Islamic revolution, adding that the second experienced legal ambiguity in terms of regulations governing the formation of the jury following the approval of new press bill in 1985.

On responsibility of the Jury, he said that according to Article 38 approved by the revolutionary council, after a case is heard members of the jury enter deliberations to decide on two issues: Whether the accused is guilty and if so whether the penalty can be commuted.

As for the difference between the duties of the Jury and the body supervising conduct of the press, Aminzadeh said that the latter is responsible for issuing licences for publication of the press. In case of any violation, the supervising body on its own initiative or upon a request by the ministry will follow up the case, he added. Cases which need prosecution will be handed over to the judicial courts where press juries are present, the official noted.

He called on the press while expanding dimension of their sound activities employ all their potentials to confront the cultural aggression launched by the enemies of the Islamic values.

Intelligence Minister Interviewed

LD0209102691 Tehran IRIB Television first Program
Network in Persian 1807 GMT 27 Aug 91

[Studio interview with Intelligence Minister 'Ali Fallahiyan, with phone-in questions; date not given; from the "Close Encounter" program—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted: program presenter gives history of the program; introduces intelligence minister 'Ali Fallahiyan]

[Fallahiyan] The Intelligence Ministry has five major areas of responsibility. Its first duty is to gather security intelligence. Its second duty is to fight foreign spies; collect foreign intelligence; safeguard intelligence and fight the enemies of the Islamic revolution. Basically, discovering conspiracies, sabotage, and disruptive activities are manifestations of our intelligence work, and gathering domestic and foreign intelligence from our intelligence-gathering tasks. Of course, when we say gathering intelligence it includes analyzing intelligence, drawing conclusions and putting forward analyses. [passage omitted]

[Presenter] Mr. Karami.

[Karami] Hello, Minister. I wanted to ask you to clarify the duty of those who, because of their job, are in contact with foreign embassies, companies, and experts. What should such people do?

[Fallahiyan] Basically, there is nothing wrong with having contacts with foreign embassies and nationals. That is, it is not legally forbidden. However, it should be noted that, naturally, many foreign nationals are intelligence agents, and having contacts with them would result in drawing the attention of the intelligence apparatus.

It should also be noted that, as you have pointed out, if a person has business, related to commerce or industry, at an embassy, or wants to obtain visas, or any other business a mission wishes to conduct in Iran, or with a foreign national in a company, they should have contact only within that scope, and not let it go beyond the scope of the economic, cultural, or whatever business they have, and not become too personal, such as friendly contacts, going to each other's house, and attending parties. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified questioner] I would like to ask two questions. The first is about dealing with the American spies and the arrest of a considerable number of American spies. Could you please explain what method was adopted to reach such success; and in view of the existing circumstances, have you enjoyed cooperation of other intelligence services? My next question is in connection with passport application for those people who have been imprisoned before. Are they allowed to leave the country?

[Fallahiyan] The method of identifying spies is a question which should not receive a clear answer. For if the spies were to discover our methods, they would change their tactics. However, I briefly mention that the work involved was extensive and hard. The more we progressed, the better we understood the techniques employed by our opponents. Praise be to God, today we have extensive intelligence files on the agents and sources of our adversary. They are surprised when we

identify their agents. We do not always arrest them. They are surprised that despite all the caution they observe in their method of approach and in contacting one another, we still managed to unravel their works.

We are not receiving assistance from any other intelligence service in the world. basically, a clause of the Intelligence Ministry regulations has recommended exchange of information with the friendly countries, but we have not yet established active exchange of intelligence information with any country. Whatever we have achieved in our intelligence system and the Intelligence Ministry is the fruit of our own experience and the hard work undertaken by the forces of our own people. We have not received any help from anywhere.

In connection with passport applications, I would like to mention an article of the Passport law, which says: Those who wish to go abroad should not be the type of individual who might discredit the regime. That is, at the international level, when we issue a passport to an individual, it means such an individual is a law-abiding person who would not commit any offense abroad. International laws and human rights also dictate that we must defend our subjects. Those who have police records should, therefore, make a special application. If they have committed an offense in the past, but have been punished and repented and are reformed, they can receive their passports and travel abroad. It might be necessary to interview such individuals. When it becomes clear that there is no longer any problem, they will receive their passport and can leave the country.

[Presenter] Mr. Ahmad Ashuri.

[Ashuri] Greetings and thanks for the round-the-clock efforts of the minister and other dear ones at the Intelligence Ministry. My first question is, what is your assessment of the counterrevolutionary minigroups inside the country? My second question is about security. It seems that complete coordination and unity does not exist. In some places some managers pull certain strings, and in certain cases of firing and hiring, sometimes managers of organizations act as an obstacle. What do you consider as a fundamental solution to such problems?

[Fallahiyan] The current situation of the counterrevolutionary minigroups is a very comprehensive subject. We should describe their situation one by one. However, one can comment on it in general terms. On the whole, groups known as left-wing groups—since the countries they relied on, their mentors and great theoreticians have themselves repented—they too have repented. There is no place left for them on the international scene. [passage omitted]

About minigroups known as right-wing groups. They do not possess the courage or the ability to act, and generally indulge in propaganda. That is, they try to obtain a radio station from a foreign country and talk about certain issues affecting society. In political equations they do not count. Off course, they may have certain activities, but

since they are organizationally weak, and that same weak organization has numerous differences of opinion—they are constantly counteracting each other's efforts and have internal disputes—they are doomed to perish.

There are some minigroups who have chosen a one-way street, as it were. That is, it has now become clear that the path they have chosen is one-way and has no return. They have now turned into foreign agents, spying inside the country, so that they can live a little longer. After the killing of the Kurds in Iraq they had a lot of disputes among themselves, and now those who used to make many claims have been forced to build large prisons and put their own members and supporters inside. They denied this when it was divulged on the international scene, but when some of their own supporters revealed all, they were forced to admit it. Their situation is not good.

Of the minigroups that were active in our country's eastern provinces, in Sistan-Baluchestan, those that were political have been practically destroyed. However, a number of gangs of insurgents remain. [passage omitted]

Minigroups active in Kordestan; after the massacre of the Kurds in Iraq and their seeking sanctuary in our country, it became apparent to the Kurds—contrary to all the propaganda by the international mass media and foreign radios that the Islamic republic of Iran is anti-Kurd, anti-Sunni, and so forth—that they have one supporter and one good host in the world, the Islamic Republic. Therefore the Kurdish minigroups began to dissolve and could no longer be active in those areas. Their political offices made the same decision. However, those countries that were helping them—that is the country that was helping them—put pressure on them, saying that we are under pressure ourselves. Despite this you must be active in the Islamic Republic. They carried out a number of operations in our western provinces. But following those operations it became clear whose agents they were; they were the agents of those who, as they themselves agree, kill Kurdish people. [passage omitted]

In connection with the security of various official bodies, the point you made is a sensitive one. The cabinet has put forward some new regulations. God willing, if they are discussed they will be approved in the next few weeks, and the task of security will, God willing, become coordinated, and these problems will be solved. Of course, it is not a vital problem at the moment. There is some lack of coordination in some places, as you mentioned. However, thank God, the security departments of the ministries and other bodies are in control and are active, and we thank them for their efforts.

[Unidentified questioner] I would like to ask a question on the government policy during the reconstruction period. This period involves links with foreign countries and employment of foreign experts, as well as plans to attract tourists. What are your plans to immunize our society against contamination by aliens? I would also like to ask a question on the role played by the Intelligence

Ministry in the promotion or demotion of managers. Does the Ministry play any role at all?

[Fallahiyan] I have answered your first question earlier, but I will explain further. As you mentioned, our country is going through the reconstruction period now, and this requires assistance from abroad, including receiving visitors in the form of advisers, experts, businessmen, exporters, and others. No doubt the intelligence agents of foreign countries come to our country under the guise of such titles. We must limit our links with these visitors to work only. We must not drag such work contacts to family contacts, invitations to parties and unnecessary excursions. This is a general explanation we offer to you and the dear nation. Of course, the Intelligence Ministry has a program for counterintelligence work, which we will inform the people in time. The law says that we must offer intelligence services to our people, too. More will be explained on this matter later, God willing. Certainly our efforts for reconstruction and economic development require such comings and goings and contacts. Not only do we not consider such contacts as illegal; rather we think they are mostly useful and effective for the country. But we must observe some principles.

On our role in the promotion or demotion of managers, I must say we have intelligence records on various individuals, which we place at the disposal of state officials when they ask for it. This all depends on the special requirements of the state officials. Of course, if we have proof that a manager has had counterrevolutionary records, or is a spy, we would declare it openly to inform the state officials that such an individual should not be promoted. [passage omitted]

[Presenter] Mr. Ahmadvand.

[Ahmadvand] Could you please tell us about the final outcome of the file on Mehdi Hashemi.

[Fallahiyan] The file was attended to at the time it was in process. The accused named in the file were punished and the case ended. Of course, some of the things in the file which were not all that important still remained obscure, but became clarified later. One thing that was clarified this year was that the body of one of the persons who was killed by this gang was discovered, and the whole affair became clear.

[Presenter] Mr. Pakseresht:

[Pakseresht] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Good day to you, Mr. Minister. I have two questions—one is about the misled sects, especially the Baha'is, who seem to hold meetings currently and so forth. What is the Intelligence Ministry doing about this? [passage omitted: question and answer about social corruption and need to continue confronting this through cooperation of people]

[Fallahiyan] As to your first question, I think that the situation is somewhat different from the way you described it, that is, the misled sects or minigroups that

are hostile to the values of the Islamic revolution are known to the Intelligence Ministry, and if they carry out a move that is harmful to society, to the Islamic revolution's culture, we will confront them. Essentially, we have knowledge and information about these kinds of issues.

[Presenter] Mrs. Maryam Fada'i-Yeganeh.

[Fada'i-Yeganeh] Good day. [passage omitted: question on status of families of men missing in action] What is the situation of individuals whose heads of household, for instance women, whose husbands are in prison—especially since 1983—and who have no sympathies whatsoever for minigroups? what is the reason for keeping them in prison and what are their families to do? Thanks.

[Fallahiyan] Your second question. Do you mean those who are not in minigroups and who are in prison? [passage omitted] With regard to minigroups, we do not have many prisoners. If you remember, we announced three years ago that we will try to release all those who can be released, such as those who have repented and are not harmful to society, or those we could control outside prison if they were freed. We announced at that time that we do not have more than 1,000 prisoners as far as minigroups are concerned. We announce now that we have under 500 persons, that is, we have endeavored to release more. The small number remaining in prison are individuals charged with offences that carry judicial verdicts, and their situation is not appropriate to being granted amnesty. Of course, it may be possible for their situation to improve in the future; God willing, they may be granted amnesty. In any case, there are not a large number of such persons in our prisons. [passage omitted]

[Presenter] Mr. Mohammad Firuzan.

[Firuzan] Good day Mr. Minister. Two issues. The first, once again, concerns these minigroups, considering that we ourselves have been harmed by the activities of these minigroups. Because their activities were curbed inside the country, we see now that they are investing in a lot of activities abroad, where they pass on certain reports or material to international forums and organizations, who in turn reach certain decisions over these reports, etc, and issue resolutions or make certain moves which do not reflect what is taking place inside the country, or they issue lies. This gives rise to various problems. My question is: Does the Intelligence Ministry take any measures in connection with these issues which take place abroad? [passage omitted]

[Fallahiyan] The activities of the minigroups abroad does not reflect their strength, because some countries have certain problems with us. I mean, for instance, either they are at war with us or that war, crises, and such things are continuing, or they are in a state of contradiction because of international political issues or because of the stances we have adopted at the international level. So, evidently, the minigroups have to find something—an instrument or group to exert pressure which they can

also publicize. Many countries—well, some countries—have done this kind of thing. But, bearing in mind that our situation from the international standpoint has now become very good; the fact that the Islamic Republic's system commands special prestige; possesses special principled stances; commands respect, and the fact that everyone has accepted this principled system, has accepted the Revolution—in this way the activities of these minigroups no longer has effect. Of course, I do not want to say that they cannot do anything anywhere, that they cannot create adverse climates against us. It is the people who are endeavoring in the main to combat minigroups, that is, we see often how in this connection, it is the people who assist us by writing letters, explaining, clarifying the stances of the minigroups and describing the crimes they commit inside the country, though they are pretending now, over there, that they are innocent. Many of these plots have been foiled through people's assistance. Of course, I do not want to say that they cannot conduct propaganda outside the country. Generally, when they are no longer under the domination of the Islamic government, they inevitably join the enemies of this government. But, bearing in mind issues that presently matter in the world—the question of terrorism in particular is the focus of attention of all international forums—the minigroups are mainly terrorists. That is, when their files are opened, those who defend them are themselves accused in some way of siding with terrorism. Thus their minigroups' struggles do not carry the same force and strength as before and have become weak. [passage omitted]

TV Reports Crime, Espionage Networks Uncovered

LD3108130191

[Editorial Report] Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian at 1715 GMT on 28 August carries a 30-minute program on the occasion of Government Week, dealing with government achievements during the past Iranian year ending 20 March 1991. Concerning national security, it is reported:

“Actions were implemented to counter intelligence and security operations at border areas in order to confront the penetration of espionage agents and identify and break up gangs involved in forging qualification documents, bribery, and financial corruption. This resulted in sums equivalent to \$2.2 million, 570,000 pounds sterling, 580,000 French francs, and 2.3 million marks invested in foreign banks by those accused to be returned to the country. Identification and smashing of gangs involved in forging signatures of Majles deputies, smuggling of caviar, and smuggling out people also took place. Finally, identification and uncovering of 30 Iraqi spies, 10 spies from a neighboring country, and two American espionage networks were among other intelligence and security activities implemented during the year 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991].

KEYHAN Condemns Love of Luxury Among Officials

NC2708185291 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 18 Aug 91 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: “We Should Take the Warning of the Leader of the Revolution Seriously”]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] A love of luxury is always disgusting, but when this afflicts a country's officials the matter becomes all the more serious. At the very least, this means that the people also develop a craving for the glitter of an extravagant and lavish lifestyle, and greed and avarice overshadow a society's values.

Can such a society be considered Islamic or even humanitarian? Does it not then become ridiculous to talk of aspirations and lofty values? Where do we then look for morals or ethics? How can we comply with the demands of our political and economic independence? What cultural revolution can we talk about? Is it even possible, amid such dire economic straits, for so many people to be able to live so lavishly?

Let us put this more explicitly:

How can a respected official riding in a 10-million rial Mercedes Benz—when there is no justification or security reason for him to do so—talk about the revolution? For what values is he working? Of what dignity of labor does he talk? What stratum does he serve? Does he know that his car embodies everything that is against the values and aspirations of the revolution? When he drives by the long lines of people waiting for buses and taxis in his latest-model foreign car is he not making fun of them?

How can a respected Majles deputy—who speaks with great emotion about the shariah, Islam, the imam's line, and the oppressed and deprived and who is not prepared to deviate even an inch in factional or political differences—live in a lavish mansion in Tehran's northernmost suburbs, surrounded by only wealthy parasites without a care in the world? Will not physical proximity to these wealthy ones gradually result in psychological and factional proximity to them?

Can an esteemed official, whose children go to exclusive private schools with the latest equipment, even begin to understand the pain of a family whose children attend schools in shifts and have no tables, benches, heaters, or fans?

If only there was one stratum of people who opposed luxury and extravagance, who were not preoccupied with whether someone was a rightist or a leftist, they could then expose the Benz-riders, the real rightists and leftists, and those who crave material pleasure.

Truly, can these matters remain hidden from the eyes of the people and the hezbollahis? In the words of the great

leader of the revolution: "Are the people blind?" Can the people continue to trust officials who have become lovers of luxury?

We do not deny that the officials, deputies, and employees of the Islamic Republic of Iran's system are in general the most energetic, simple, and intelligent people in the world, but this laudable trait should not make us indifferent and insensitive to the exceptions which can gradually become the rule. Deviation always begin at a lower level, from where it will spread if not checked. Silence over any extravagance, however small, by officials will deal a considerable blow to the body of the revolution and the morality and culture of the society.

The fact that the great leader of the revolution should speak so frankly to officials about extravagance, lavish spending, and luxury-loving tendencies is significant in itself. If they feel this is not a problem, then they should say so and the rest of us can act accordingly. There can be no justification for causing such anxiety and apprehension in a firm and solicitous leader who is concerned about the people and the values of the revolution. [passage omitted]

Daily Calls For Introspection and Self-Improvement

*NC0309115591 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI
in Persian 25 Aug 91 pp 1, 2*

[Editorial: "The Need for Fundamental Changes in the Country's Administrative System"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] "Government Week" is in fact "People's Week," because the government belongs to the people, who have the right to openly express their opinions on the government they themselves have elected and to engage in constructive criticism to make the country's executive system grow and better itself.

For this reason, both parallel factors—the government and the people—should be addressed during the celebration of Government Week. The government should explain its performance to the people, frankly discussing its strengths and weaknesses and clearly asking the people what they want.

For their part, the people should present their views and assess the government's performance and clarify how satisfied the people are with the government's achievements.

One way of determining the people's viewpoint is for officials on various levels of the hierarchy to mingle with the people. They should discuss the complexities and subtleties of their work along with the difficulties within their area of responsibility. They should not be the "exclusive speakers," however, and they should listen to the people's grievances and tolerate their criticism.

They should offer any answer they have, or they should respond by making an effort to improve their departments' work and to incorporate the people's viewpoints.

This method will preserve the popular nature of the system and will strengthen it, thus consolidating the rapport between the government and the people—who, in fact, are not separate entities. [passage omitted]

The government has performed well during the past year. Its achievements include: the victorious return of the noble combatants [POW's] to the nation's fold, the Baghdad regime's retreat from its past stance, the affirmation of the Islamic Republic of Iran's just position during the imposed war, and, similarly, the country's prudent stance during the "oil war."

More suitable conditions should be created for a broader range of activity for the executive officials and the government as a whole. First and foremost, they should enjoy the support of the nation and of the various sectors of society so that they can begin to plan and successfully implement the programs.

Meanwhile, the major strain on relations between the officials and the people stems from the inability to change the administrative structure into one that better suits the era of the Revolution. In some cases, people behave inappropriately during interactions with officials, or, in others, time is unnecessarily wasted. Our resources currently are not being used to their optimum capacity. [passage omitted]

The main advantage in reforming the administrative system to a more favorable one is that the people, on an emotional level, will feel closer to a structure which is of their own making and which is in harmony with Revolution's ideals. Most of the time, this feeling does not exist, and occasionally some feel that the administration's employees and officials are strangers who do not empathize with their problems. This attitude cannot be tolerated or defended. In these departments, even the forces devoted to the Revolution have been "absorbed" in the inappropriate structure and will be used in a manner which will certainly not be in accordance with the wishes of those who are devoted to the Revolution and the country. This problem cannot be resolved without fundamentally overhauling the country's administrative system.

Until that time, all the sincere and efficient forces in the country's administrative departments, as well as those who are devoted to the Revolution, should accelerate their efforts in order to reach their objectives in a shorter time and thus prevent the administrative system from destroying the forces devoted to the Revolution and remove the possibility that the nation's bounteous lifespan will be wasted in the labyrinths of the offices.

Yazdi Meets Clergymen, Officials in Bakhtaran

*NC0309071391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT
3 Sep 91*

[Text] Head of the Judiciary, Mr. Yazdi, who is in Bakhtaran Province, attended a meeting with Sunni and

Shiite clergymen, Friday imams, and congregation imams of the province yesterday. During the meeting—which was also attended by the general prosecutor, the representative of the supreme jurisconsult, the Bakhtaran Friday Imam, and several local officials—Mr. Yazdi discussed the role of the clergy at the various stages of the Islamic Revolution.

Mr. Yazdi also discussed the current world standing enjoyed by the Islamic Republic and the good leadership of the esteemed leader and of the nation's officials. He said that the good management of the country has led to the grandeur and honor of the Muslim Iranian nation, noting that the world has praised the nation's insightful policies, something unprecedented in Islamic history.

Mr. Yazdi also noted Iran's role in the world, saying: Iran's system enjoys a very good reputation in international circles. Other nations want more contact with Islamic Iran.

Stressing that Islam is the true defender of human rights, the head of the judiciary described Islamic laws as more progressive than laws that govern other countries. In conclusion, Mr. Yazdi emphasized the need for unity, accord, and cooperation among the clergy in forwarding the sacred objectives of the Islamic Revolution.

A Central News Unit correspondent reports from Bakhtaran that last night Mr. Yazdi also attended the Bakhtaran Province's administrative council meeting during which he stressed the need to preserve independence in the judiciary system and called on judiciary officials to carry out their legal duties in the best way possible. The head of the judiciary also called for as much cooperation as possible between the people and the officials and the country's judiciary officials.

ABRAR Protests Mistreatment of Correspondent

*NC0309165091 Tehran ABRAR in Persian
26 Aug 91 p 2*

[Unattributed report]

[Text] ABRAR's correspondent in Dasht-e Moghan had his head shaved and was then paraded around the city in handcuffs, with his arms bound by a rope.

Following a complaint by the Moghan governor about a report by correspondent Amin Sepehri, a report for which ABRAR itself should be held responsible, a civil

court in Parsabad district in Moghan ordered that Sepehri's head be shaved and that he be fined 300,000 tomans, paraded through the city bound and gagged, and imprisoned.

When it learned of this development at 1505 yesterday, ABRAR immediately contacted the interior minister, whose office referred us to Mr. Ayyubi, an adviser to the minister. Mr. Ayyubi was then contacted and given details about the incident. He was told that the paper had published the Moghan governor's response to a report carried on 30 July in its 14 August issue. The interior minister's adviser deemed the governor's complaint legitimate, but expressed amazement at the district court's order regarding shaving the correspondent's head and parading him through the city. He then referred us to the judiciary.

At 1517, we contacted Mr. Tehrani at the judiciary's public relations office, and he ordered an immediate inquiry into the incident after consulting with the head of the judiciary. No further information had been received, however, by the close of the business day, and ABRAR has no news of its correspondent.

While ABRAR has no intention of interfering in judicial matters or making any hasty judgments, we must ask what, if any, mistake our correspondent could have committed that warranted his being treated in such a humiliating way. Just as we wrote about "the arrest of a correspondent," we also published the governor's response in accordance with Article 23 of the press law.

ABRAR respects the governor's right to lodge a legal complaint, but must ask whether it is right that a correspondent be paraded about the city so conspicuously and treated as a common criminal, placed on the same level and held on the same premises as any thug.

On the basis of Clause 9 of Article 4 of the press law, does not responsibility for what is published rest on the shoulders of a newspaper's editor? Why then was a simple correspondent exposed to such defamatory treatment and humiliation?

We firmly request the esteemed officials of the judiciary and the Ministry of Islamic Guidance to investigate the matter immediately, so that we do not have to hear once again that somewhere in the country the head of a correspondent is shaved and he is paraded around. This distasteful incident should bring home to the press community its responsibility toward its employees.

Rafsanjani Opens Export Promotion Conference*LD0309002991 Tehran IRNA in English 1321 GMT
2 Sep 91*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 2, (IRNA)—The first international conference on promotion of non-oil exports was inaugurated here Monday with a message of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In his message, the president stressed that despite the great attention government officials paid to promotion of non-oil exports and efforts to take the country away from the single-product economy, the specific economic conditions of the country including the imposed war prevented major plannings.

He said positive developments had taken place in the exports policies of the country during the past two years and the committee to promote non-oil exports had taken major steps to eliminate the existing obstacles.

He also hailed holding of fairs inside the country as well as Iran's participation at international fairs in the countries having commercial ties with Iran.

These fairs had considerable impacts on expansion of Iran's non-oil exports so that their value shows an increase of 90 percent during the first quarter of the current Iranian year (started on March 21, 1991).

The president called on executive officials to utilise the experiences of those countries which have been successful in export field at a world level.

He also recommended holding of specialised conferences to upgrade the knowledge of researchers, experts and commercial officials of the country.

Rafsanjani expressed the hope that the conference would find desirable ways to create variety in non-oil exports.

Also addressing the confab, Commerce Minister 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji said that non-oil exports were so low during the past decade that their revenue (in hard currency) was hardly sufficient to meet ten percent of the country's imports.

He added that industrial products comprised about ten percent of the non-oil exports of the country and the rest included traditional and agricultural items.

Head of the Exports Promotion Center Mustafa Hashemi said that Iran's non-oil exports reached 1.4 billion dollars in 1990 from 465 million dollars in 1985.

More than 50 guests from 18 countries are participating in the three-day conference.

The participating guests are from Mexico, Yugoslavia, Turkey, Pakistan, Taiwan, Australia, Singapore, Bulgaria, Oman, Spain, Austria, Germany, Mauritius, South Korea, Japan, Denmark, Thailand and Hungary.

Habibi Optimistic on Improving Economy*91AS1564B Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 3 Sep 91 p 2*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 2 (IRNA)—First Vice-president Hassan Habibi here Monday said higher productivity, increased revenues and lower liquidity held by the private sector as well as shrinking budget deficit during the past few years, were all indicative of an improving economy.

Speaking to reporters at his weekly press conference, Habibi who is also the government spokesman added that the downward trend in productivity was harnessed in 1989 and began to improve in the following year, registering a 10.1 percent growth.

In 1990, Habibi said, in line with the post-war reconstruction efforts some 29 percent of the total credits were allocated to development projects. The figure was only 19.4 percent in 1989.

On rapid growth of non-oil exports, the spokesman said the revenue from them amounting to 76.8 percent in 1989 reached 80.1 percent in 1990. He said that these exports should be further promoted.

As for the budget deficit, Habibi said it was 50.1 percent in 1988, 26.3 percent in 1989 and 10.6 percent in 1990 adding that it was the lowest in 1990 during the past 15 years.

He also referred to the private sector's reduced liquidity and said the figure dropped from 24.2 percent in 1988 to 17.2 percent in 1990 thus helping to curb the inflation and reduce retail prices.

On recent developments in the neighbouring Soviet Union, Habibi said Iran would follow a clear and defined policy in this connection.

"With regard to our long common borders with the Soviet Union and our good bilateral relations, we are sensitive towards developments in that country," he told reporters.

On the forthcoming visit by U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to Iran scheduled for September 10, Habibi said the U.N. chief will investigate the progress of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 on ending Iraq-Iran war. In this respect special emphasis will be laid on the paragraph six which deals with naming of the aggressor party in the war and the assessment of war reparations.

He added that in response to the last week visit to Tehran by the Iraqi Deputy Foreign Minister Saad Abdulmajid al-Faisal, Iran's deputy foreign minister has been invited to pay an official visit to Iraq.

Value of German Exports Over 100 Percent

91ASI434B London KEYHAN in Persian 22 Aug 91 p 4

[Text] With exports of goods and materials to the Islamic Republic valued at 2.7 billion marks, in the first four months of the current year (1991), the Federal Republic of Germany [as published] made this country the largest market for its factory products in the Middle East. In announcing that commercial relations between Tehran and Bonn are constantly growing, commercial sources in the Federal Republic of Germany predicted that by the end of the year Germany will increase the value of its exports to Iran to 6.5 or 7 billion marks. In a statistical report, an economic publication published in the Federal Republic of Germany recently announced that the value of the Islamic Republic's commercial trade with the Federal Republic of Germany in the months of January, February, March, and April in the current year were worth 2.422 billion marks. A comparison of this figure with the value of all commercial transactions between Tehran and Bonn during the same period the previous year shows a 76-percent increase. The publication, which is published by the Iran and Germany Chamber of Commerce and Industries, noted that in the first four months of the current year the Islamic Republic exported to the Federal Republic of Germany various goods and materials valued at 451.7 million marks. This report states that about 180.4 million marks of the value of Iran's exports to the Federal Republic of Germany in the period under discussion was made up of crude oil. The remainder were nonpetroleum exports such as hand-woven woolen carpets, dried fruits, caviar, ores, fresh fruits, hides, and leathers. An analysis of the figures published in the Iran and Germany Chamber of Commerce and Industries publication shows that in the first four months of the current year the Islamic Republic exported about 272.3 million marks in nonpetroleum goods to Germany. A comparison of this quantity with the nonpetroleum exports to Germany in the same period the previous year shows a 24.4-percent increase.

Striking Increase of Imports From Germany

In part of its report the publication noted that the value of the Islamic Republic's imports from the Federal Republic of Germany during the first four months of the current year compared to the same period the previous year increased 111 percent (more than double). A statistical study of the commercial transactions between the Islamic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany in the last few years shows that the two countries have continually expanded their trade relations. On this basis, while the value of the commercial transactions between the Islamic Republic and Germany in 1989 were about 3.7 billion marks, last year (1990) this figure made a striking leap to more than 5.45 billion marks, and in view of the level of trade exchanges between the two nations in the first four months of the current year, it is expected that last year's figure of 5.45 billion marks in commercial exchanges between the two nations will increase to more than 6.5 or seven billion marks this

year. An insider in commercial affairs in the Federal Republic of Germany told KEYHAN's reporter that the closing of the Iraqi market to Germany and the rapid expansion of the good political relations between the Islamic regime of Tehran and the Bonn government will mean that this year will become a prosperous one for trade between the two nations. This expert added: The German Export Industries Organization, "Herms," with revised estimates on exports to Iran, and taking into consideration the major facilities for Germany's production and industrial units to export products to Iran, will smooth the way for expanding commercial relations between the two countries. In part of his telephone conversation, the expert on German economic affairs told KEYHAN: The Federal Republic of Germany is daily seeking to increase its share in the extensive consumer market in Iran, and it is trying not to fall behind its world commercial rivals, chief among them France, Italy, and Japan, in flooding the Iranian consumer markets with its goods. For this purpose, the German Government has freed the hands of its banks to give commercial credit to merchants, as well as to grant long-term loans to Iran's industrial institutions, especially the oil and petrochemical industries and those under the Ministry of Power.

The expert added: Germany is currently owed significant amounts of money by the Islamic Republic. These debts take the form of commercial credit and loans, 360- and 720-day letters of credit, and industrial loans for carrying out special projects in Iran. This expert said: During the last two weeks the German Deutsche Bank, with the participation of an Italian bank, helped the Islamic Republic's Ministry of Oil by granting a loan of \$856 million to carry out a project to complete the Arak petrochemical installations, and it is expected that the amount of this loan will be increased in the future.

'Simpler Language' in Explaining Economy Needed

NC2708122191 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI
in Persian 13 Aug 91 p 15

[Unattributed commentary: "In the Margin of Economic Reports"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The people, especially those with stable incomes, are facing economic problems. Therefore, in such conditions it is very difficult to understand or sometimes to believe statistics.

Our economic officials and directors should strive harder to make up for this shortcoming and should try to explain problems in a simpler language when using statistics and other figures.

The reality is that the country's economic problems did not appear overnight, in a month, or even in a year, so they cannot be eliminated or solved that quickly, either.

The economic problems in our country stem from the years of imposed war, the economic siege, the drop in production, and the lack of investment.

Meanwhile, because the enemy's plan was to destroy the people, each year that incurs damage requires even more years of continuous effort to return things to normal.

Unfortunately, during recent years, nothing much has been said about this, and propaganda has been aimed at showing that the situation has been improving at a faster pace. Perhaps this is the reason why the people's economic expectations also have increased.

It also should be admitted that during the last few months, the officials' tone and language have dealt with statistics and economic-technical problems, rather than with tangible facts in society. For instance, when we say that despite having a 9-percent inflation rate more than 20 percent has been added to salaries, this is a positive and correct economic fact. But along with this, the fact also should be accepted that the difference between this increase in salaries and last year's inflation rate will never compensate for the high rate of inflation in past years.

Thus, we witness an overt contradiction in society between economic facts dependent on statistics and figures and the tangible reality of inflation amassed throughout the years. Because we are unable to explain or understand this, we only add to society's problems.

Apparently it would be better if our economic officials sought assistance from the propaganda officials, and by providing economic statistics to the public, tried to use a simpler language along with statistics and figures, or, in other words, to use simpler and more understandable words to explain the specialized language of economics so no damage is inflicted in the process to positive public economic programs.

Perhaps this effort will help society obtain its economic objectives.

Housing Loan Interest Increased to 16 Percent

*91AS1432C London KEYHAN in Persian
15 Aug 91 p 4*

[Text] In its recent meeting, the Monetary and Credit Council increased the [interest] rate on housing loans from the present 4 or 5 percent to 16 percent. Economic affairs experts in Iran believe this unprecedented action has greatly increased the rate of inflation in the weak and chaotic economy of the Islamic Republic. In the meantime, the curve of housing prices and rents will continue ascending. Based on the decisions made by the above-mentioned council, from now on the interest rate on housing loans will be collected in proportion to the amount of land under construction as a result of borrowing. Hence, the greater the area under construction for residential apartments, the more the interest rates on

the loan will increase. The housing bank also, immediately after the meeting of the monetary and credit council ended, announced the changes in the interest rates of various kinds of housing loans as follows:

Baking assistance for residential units with 75 to 120 square meters under construction is expected to be at a minimum interest rate of 14 percent annually.

Banking assistance for residential units with a net area under construction over than 120 square meters is expected to be at a minimum interest rate of 16 percent annually.

Interest on housing loans for government employees, up to 6 million rials, will be 7 percent; for the families of martyrs, those lost in the war, self-sacrificers, and released prisoners of war, up to 6 million rials, 4 percent; for insured agents, up to 6 million rials, 8 percent; and for faculty members of universities and institutions of higher education, up to 7 million rials, 8 percent.

Abadan Airport To Become Operational

*91AS1415F Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
14 Aug 91 p 10*

[Text] Ahvaz-15 Mordad-6 August—'Abediati, deputy director, and Musavi, engineering and aircraft construction deputy of the National Aircraft Organization, along with several officials of this organization, met and spoke with Engineer Tula'i, governor-general of Khuzestan.

At this meeting, Eng. Tula'i began by giving a talk in which he discussed the importance and the necessity of aircraft growth and expansion in the province of Khuzestan. He expressed the hope that with the expansion of the terminal corridor, parking and other resources next year, pilgrims will fly to Mecca from Ahvaz.

He added: The reconstruction and reopening of the Abadan Airport is seen as a turning point in the return of the people and the dear released prisoners of war to their primary homes and residences, and it is hoped that this matter will be pursued seriously and vigorously.

The governor-general's office will provide aid and assistance in this matter to the extent of our resources and ability. At this meeting the governor-general of Khuzestan asked officials of the aircraft organization to invest and plan to attract the province's experienced and trained personnel for this purpose, and to take measures to establish an aircraft club and to build a hotel in Ahvaz.

Then 'Abediati, deputy director of the National Aircraft Organization, gave a talk in which he promised that by 15 Mehr this year [7 October] the Abadan Airport will be reopened and go into operation.

He enumerated the activities as well as the necessary measures pertaining to starting the aircraft club and building the aircraft hotel, and the necessity for investment in this matter. At the end of this meeting he

introduced Ketabchi as the new general manager of the Khuzestan Province airport.

Transfer of Free Land to Abadan Locals

To help the people of the municipality of Abadan, from now until the reconstruction is completed, free land will be provided to local people.

The chief of the Abadan Urban Lands Organization announced this in an exclusive interview with a reporter from the central news unit. He added: After this law was passed in the Majles and circulated, the Abadan Urban Lands Organization has undertaken to return land down-payment funds collected from the people. In this regard, he emphasized: In several parts of the city of Abadan, 108 and 191 hectares of land respectively have been turned over to the Khuzestan General Office of Housing and Urban Construction for preparation, and as soon as the land is prepared it will be given to qualified applicants.

He added: Preparing the land for the people includes grading the land; building water, electricity, and sewage networks; asphalt paving of the streets, and in the event that the pertinent administrative organizations cooperate, this task will proceed more quickly. Continuing the interview, the official from the Abadan Urban Lands Organization enumerated the activities of this organization. He said: 21,500 files on applicants for land in Abadan have been created since the end of the imposed war and they are under consideration, and after the review the land will be given free to individuals. Concerning the matter of taking possession of land for the purpose of turning the land over to offices and individuals, he added: So far documents on 1,080 hectares of land adjoining the petrochemical complex and Halal Barim, 2,400 square meters of land behind Takhti Stadium, and 14,500 square meters on Zul-Faqari mountain have been taken over in the name of the government, and after preparation these lands will be given to the people. Likewise, for the construction of industrial villages, 400 hectares of land from the lands on the west side of the Ahvaz-Abadan road have been transferred.

On the other hand, 60 hectares of land for building classrooms, 9,000 square meters of land for the purpose of building administrative sites, and 200 hectares of land for agricultural projects are being turned over to qualified people. He added: In the Abushank area of Abadan, 100,000 square meters of land have been given to offices and the Abadan Physical Education office for the purpose of starting an administrative site and a sports complex.

Tobacco Exports To Increase

91AS1564D Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 4 Sep 91 p 6

[Text] Isfahan, Sept. 3 (IRNA)—Some 55 tons of tobacco were exported to Cyprus by Isfahan Tobacco

Company during the past five months bringing into the country \$850,000, said an official of the company here Monday.

Isfahan's tobacco exports are expected to reach 200 tons, worth \$3 million, by the year end (March 20, 1992), he added.

Construction of a new factory producing 20,000 million cigarettes annually is completed in Rasht, northern province of Gilan, with an investment of \$70 million.

Annually some 6,000 million cigarettes will be produced in the first phase of the production when the factory becomes operational, saving \$70 million in foreign exchange.

SORUSH on Need for Support for Poor

NC2208190091 Tehran SORUSH in Persian
17 Aug 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Bitter Medicine, Sweet Fruit"]

[Excerpts] The country's economy is one of the burning topics now occupying the attention of our society. Inflation, per capita income, a decline in purchasing power, spiraling prices—all these are part of the wheel of economic pressure. The problem of inflation is certainly not new, nor is it confined to our country. [passage omitted]

These phenomena do have certain distinctive characteristics in our country, however, and they cannot be ignored. In any society, those who suffer most from inflation are those on low or fixed incomes. In our country, these are the people who pioneered and supported the revolution, and our revolution is greatly indebted to them. [passage omitted]

Today not just economic experts but anyone with the most rudimentary knowledge of economics knows that an economy which is greatly centralized, artificially supported, and bereft of efficient institutions will have to go through many difficult stages before it can transform itself into a creative and dynamic economy capable of competing on the world market. No realistic economist can deny the need for a balanced and adjusted policy. [passage omitted]

All experts agree on the way this transformation can be achieved, but this is a difficult prescription to apply. It requires bitter medicine such as eliminating general and unnecessary subsidies in order to break the system of multiple and unrealistic prices, canceling some of the facilities provided by the government, and lifting unwarranted restrictions and regulations governing imports and exports.

The pressure that will be felt by society's most vulnerable strata if this formula for rectifying the economic structure is implemented has become known as the bitter medicine for the deprived strata, but despite its bitterness, it must be swallowed. Something must also be done, however, to mitigate this bitterness, because if we

reach a point where this medicine fails to work, then nothing will be able to remedy the situation.

We have had a decade of policies of artificial support, centralized production, rationing, and other short-term expedients. These policies were mostly the result of temporary and crisis situations, but they have left us with an economy too far gone for medicine alone to provide a cure. Our economy requires prompt and major surgery for its salvation.

The man chosen by history and the Iranian nation to carry out this major surgery is Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in concert with his efficient cabinet.

Our haste to rectify our economy does not, however, mean that surgery should be performed without an anesthetic, as this would entail immense suffering among the vulnerable strata. This must be the case even if it means a delay in rectifying and readjusting our economy.

Fortunately, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's remarks in his Friday sermon on 9 August bore glad tidings of greater assistance to the deprived strata. The umbrella of government support will continue to be held over the heads of society's vulnerable strata, which is great news for workers and other members of lower-income groups announced as Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's cabinet is on the eve of entering its third year.

The sermon was also an important source of guidance for all government employees as they continue to carry out their reform policies, so that they remain vigilant to any economic vulnerability facing this significant portion of our society. We all hope that one day the sweetness of the fruit will erase the bitter taste of the medicine from our memories.

Arak Petrochemical Cost Estimated at \$2 Billion

91ASI438G London KEYHAN in Persian 5 Aug 91 p 4

[Text] The first phase of the Arak petrochemical complex, whose construction contract was signed with Italian contractor companies, will be completed in six months, and by early next year this complex will be ready to put into operation. The executive director of the Arak Petrochemical Corp. recently announced that about 60 percent of the work installing facilities at the Arak petrochemical complex has been completed, and it is expected that if the work continues at its present pace, the first phase of this complex will be operational by late this year (1370 [ends March 20, 1991]). The National Petrochemical Industries Co. and the National Bank of Iran have provided the capital for building the above complex, and the Italian contractor company Lucky is responsible for carrying out the installation operations for phase one. Mostafa Zaheri, executive director of the Arak petrochemical complex recently announced that in phase one of this complex four units will produce a total of 350,000 tons of various products. The executive director of the Arak Petrochemical Corp. told reporters:

So far, the cost of phase one of the complex is \$1.4 billion and the estimated costs of phase two are estimated to be \$600 million.

Mostafa Zaheri, executive director of the Arak petrochemical complex, told reporters that 70 percent of the work to install phase one of the complex is being carried out by the Italians, and efforts are also being made to make use also of Iranian manpower in carrying out the project. He added: If the appropriate specialist does not exist in Iran, the foreign contractor is authorized to seek to hire the necessary manpower from outside the country, so that currently 556 foreign citizens are taking part in installing the Arak petrochemical complex.

Assembly of Peykan Model 1600 To Begin in New Year

91ASI434C London KEYHAN in Persian 22 Aug 91 p 4

[Text] In the month of Shahrivar next year (1371) [23 August - 22 September 1992] the Iran Vehicle Co. plants, naming the Peykan the "national automobile," will begin producing this type of automobile with the Talbott-1600 motor. Mohammad Hasan Tehrani-Nezhad, executive director of the Iran Vehicle Co. plants, was asked by news reporters why the Peykan was selected as the "national automobile." He answered: The selection of the Peykan as the national automobile was done as government policy, on the recommendation of the Ministry of Heavy Industries, and based on its acceptance among the people. The executive director of the Iran Vehicle Co. disclosed that the machinery for making the parts for the Peykan (1600) have been purchased from the bankrupt English Talbott plant. "The Talbott project is active and some of the machinery purchased has been installed in the Iran Vehicle Company plant, and in the Ramiyad and Saran vehicle plants. The rest has been transferred to the private sector."

Elsewhere in his press conference, he discussed talks with companies producing gearboxes, axles, and other parts of the Talbott motor. He said: The small motor parts, of which there are more than 70 and collectively make up the Peykan-1600 motor, have been transferred to the Mashhad Parts Plant.

Mohammad Hasan Tehrani-Nezhad discussed the price of the national Peykan. He said: Precise technical and economic calculations in this area have not yet been made, but since the parts needed by the Talbott national Peykan are made in the country and take little foreign exchange, its price will be lower than in the past. He added: The Iran Vehicle Co. plant is meeting its former commitments; this matter will continue until the end of the year, and about 10,000 pre-ordered passenger cars and 7,000 Peykan vanettes will be delivered by the end of the year.

Import of Valuable Metals Declared Legal

91AS1434H London KEYHAN in Persian 22 Aug 91 p 4

[Text] The free import of gold, silver, and platinum in standard international ingots has been announced. At its latest meeting, the Islamic Republic's Monetary and Credit Council decided that henceforth real and legal persons will be authorized to import gold, silver, and platinum ingots for commercial use. In a statement published in the nation's press, the council announced: Based on the decision taken, importers of standard ingots of gold, silver, and platinum may prepare an import declaration form to import these valuable metals in the quantities needed, while observing import-export regulations.

The Money and Credit Council also approved the export of gold and silver products as follows:

- 1 - The export of gold products requires that they be imported in the same quantities, and with regard to silver the import of the equivalent value in gold will be required of the exporter.
- 2 - The export of gold ingots is prohibited.
- 3 - Gold and silver products are products that have an added value of 10 and 25 percent, respectively.
- 4 - Handicrafts in which liquid gold and silver are used, in view of the small amount of expensive metal involved, are exempt from these regulations and are authorized.

Lack of Expert Manpower Hindering Agricultural Growth

91AS1564E Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 5 Sep 91 p 1

[Text] Kerman, Sept. 4 (IRNA)—A Rls.[rials]25 billion plus a \$12 million line of credit have been allocated for research in agriculture during the current Iranian calendar year (started March 21, 91), Agriculture Minister Issa Kalantari said here Tuesday.

The Minister who arrived here to open a congress on medical herbs Tuesday, in a press conference later in the day said the most acute problem in the agricultural sector is absence of specialized manpower.

In a bid to overcome the problem, he added, talks are underway with two foreign universities to train the needed agricultural experts for Iran.

Stating that annually about \$3b foodstuffs are imported, Kalantari added increased domestic output will enable the ministry to shift the money used on imports to basic projects.

He emphasized the necessity of promoting non-oil exports and said Kerman Province topped the list among the provinces of the country in terms of non-oil exports by such items as pistachio nuts, dates and citrus fruits.

Only exports of Kerman pistachio nuts brought into the country some \$200 million last year, he said.

Meanwhile, in his inauguration speech to the congress, Kalantari said that population growth rate has dropped significantly in the current year.

Another achievement, he added, is a 29.3 percent fall in import of protein items.

In another development, an Agriculture Ministry official Tuesday regretted that about 400,000 hectares of fertile lands throughout the country were turned to desert and 55 percent of the 120,000 million cubic meters of water reserves of the country wasted due to negligence.

Deputy agriculture minister, Ali Ahoun-Manesh, who opened the sixth scientific seminar on promotion of agriculture in Mashhad, Khorasan Province, said that Iran had the highest rate of population growth as well as the youngest population in the world.

He said gross domestic product in agricultural sector is expected to reach Rls. 7000 billion and investments Rls. 731.9 billion by the end of the first five-year development plan, 1994.

The three-day seminar is to explore ways of promoting agricultural activities and employment of modern technology in rural agriculture.

New Import-Export Facilities Established on Kish

91AS1415E Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
14 Aug 91 p 8

[Text] Tehran-14 Mordad-5 August—Executive guidelines providing a 30-percent exemption on commercial profits for commercial goods imported through Kish Island have been approved.

The Public Relations Office of the Kish Development Organization reports that this was announced by Engineer Mohsen Mehr'alizadeh, chief of the board of directors and executive director of the Kish Development Organization.

Speaking before a gathering of Kish merchants and investors, he noted: Based on this measure, payment will be forgiven on 30 percent of the attendant commercial profits on all goods eligible for import under regulations, whether unauthorized, conditionally authorized, or subject to the regulations on imports without the transfer of foreign exchange, in the event that from the country of origin they enter the country by way of Kish Island and its subsidiaries and then enter the country commercially.

The executive director of the Kish Development Organization gave between 0.25 percent and 1.5 percent as the amount collected as development percentages in connection with the goods that come into Kish Island. He said: Five percent in development percentages will be

collected only for the thirty Kish Island travel items that are among the most essential goods accompanying the Kish traveler.

Concerning the encouragement of exports, he said: Individuals who undertake to export from Kish Island may import to Kish Island goods equal in value to up to 60 percent of the foreign exchange earned from their exports, without paying the development percentage.

Assistance in the use of bank facilities for investors at Kish Island is another measure taken by the Kish Development Organization. According to Eng. Mohr'alizadeh, in this regard a protocol has been signed with the Sepah Bank on the basis of which this bank will make loans up to a maximum of 100 billion rials per year without collateral, based on the projects having to do with persons designated by the Kish Development Organization.

The question of using extensive insurance services is also another of the organization's projects, on the basis of which all the island's resources including goods, individuals, passenger luggage and implements will be insured.

Imports From Kish Exempt From Commercial Interest

91AS1434e London KEYHAN in Persian 22 Aug 91 p 4

[Text] Based on recently approved guidelines, the Islamic Republic's Ministry of Commerce will exempt up to 30 percent of the commercial interest on trade goods purchased at Kish Island and brought into the country. Mohsen Mehr'alizadeh, chief of the board of directors and executive director of the Kish Development Organization, recently announced that based on the aforementioned guidelines, all goods eligible for import according to regulations, whether authorized, conditionally authorized or goods subject to the regulations on imports without the transfer of foreign exchange, if arriving at Kish and its affiliates from the country of origin, will be exempt from paying 30 percent of the commercial interest. The official, speaking to a group of Kish merchants and investors, announced that the amount of the development percentage on goods imported to Kish is between .025 to 1.5 percent. The executive director of the Kish Development Organization said in part of his talk:

Five percent in development percentages will be collected only for the thirty Kish Island travel items that are among the most essential goods accompanying the Kish traveler.

The official added: Individuals who undertake to export from Kish Island may import to Kish Island goods equal in value up to 60 percent of the foreign exchange earned from their exports, without paying the development percentage.

Nonoil Export Volume Decreases

91AS1432E London KEYHAN in Persian 15 Aug 91 p 4

[Text] During the first three months of this year (Farvardin, Ordibehesht, and Khordad [21 March-21 June]), the export of 679,600 tons of nonoil products has brought approximately 32.4 billion rials in foreign currency revenues to the treasury of the country. A comparison of the nonoil exports of Iran in the first three months of this year with a similar period last year indicates a significant decrease in these exports. An analysis of the foreign trade statistics published by Customs indicates that this is about a 25-percent decrease. Islamic Republic Customs pointed out in its statistical report that during the period in question, about 6.25 million tons of various goods, merchandise, and foodstuffs entered the various customs of the country, and during the same period, goods released from customs were announced as 6.8 million tons, at a value of 505.5 billion rials.

Customs of the Islamic Republic, announcing that Iranian exports in the first three months of 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992], compared to a similar period in the previous year, despite a decrease in weight, had an increase in value of about 11 percent, emphasized that the national imports during this period compared to the first three months of 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] show an increase of about 28.5 percent. The above-mentioned organization reported: "The weight of imported goods in the country in the first three months of this year compared to a similar period in 1369 [1990-91] increased by about 28.3 percent. Also, goods released from customs during the period in question increased by about 18 percent in weight and 83 percent in value."

According to an analytical report published in KEYHAN newspaper in Tehran, in 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991], the Islamic Republic had increased its nonoil exports, compared to 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990], by about 33.5 percent in weight and about 16.5 percent in value.

The above-mentioned newspaper reports: "In 1369 [1990-91] the volume of export of major agricultural, industrial and mineral goods reached more than 1,934,000 tons, whereas this figure was about 1,449,000 tons in 1368 [1989-90].

An examination of Iranian customs statistics indicates that in 1369 [1990-91], most of the export items of the country were from the agricultural group. This group included 21 items at a value of 69.2 billion rials and about 543,000 tons. The amount of export of items in the agricultural group in 1368 [1989-90] was 493,000 tons at a value of 61.4 billion rials, which shows an increase of 9.9 percent in weight and 12.7 percent in value.

The report of the statistical office of the Customs of the Islamic Republic states that in 1369 [1990-91], Iran exported 8 mineral items at a weight of 1,255,000 tons and a value of 1.5 billion rials. The amount has been

mentioned at 879,000 tons at a value of about 8.8 billion rials for 1368 [1989-90]. In the industrial group, which includes 11 items, the Islamic Republic has had about 137,000 tons in exports at a value of 5.6 billion rials in 1369 [1990-91]. This amount compared to 1368 [1989-90] indicates an increase of 79.5 percent in weight and 42.2 percent in value.

An analysis of the export items of Iran in 1369 [1990-91] shows that this country gained its greatest amount of foreign currency revenues from agricultural exports. Among these items, fresh fruit, at a weight of 186,000 tons, ranks first; fresh vegetables, at a weight of 76,000 tons, second; pistachio nuts and shelled pistachio nuts, at a weight of 69,000 tons, third; and raisins, at a weight of 54,000 tons, ranked fourth. The statistical customs report also states that in 1369 [1990-91], the export of items such as fresh fruits, pistachio skins, dates, caraway seeds, dried apricots, fish, almonds, various kinds of sap, shrimp, caviar, gum tragacanth and saffron compared to 1368 [1989-90] increased in weight, and such export items as raisins, wool, intestines, licorice extract, medical and industrial goods, and several other items decreased compared to 1368 [1989-90].

Increase of Carpet Exports

The report published by the office of statistics of the Customs of the Islamic Republic in regards to the export of woolen handwoven carpets and other kinds of carpets indicates that last year the exporters of this traditional item managed to export 10,700 tons of carpets at a value of 31,566 million rials. Iranian Customs has reported the weight of the carpets exported in 1368 [1989-90] at 8,900 tons and a value of 24,678 million rials.

Simultaneous with the publication of the statistics on Iranian carpet exports to other countries by Iranian Customs, Iranian trade exports announced that, considering the level of exports of this item during the past two years, it is expected that carpets produced in Iran will gradually regain their lost position in the world market. A person involved in Iranian carpet exports told KEYHAN that facilitating the export of carpets by the Ministry of Commerce, gradually eliminating the export obstacles by the banks, and finally the expansion of the market activities by the carpet merchants abroad have caused the restrengthening of the position of Iranian carpets in the world. Based on a report received from Tehran, the Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines of Iran has recently decided to issue identity cards for Iranian export carpets. This decision, according to the statements of the Chamber of Commerce, was made in order to prevent misuse by some countries of the name and popularity of Iranian-made carpets. 'Ali Akbar Tabibi, a member of the board of directors of the handwoven carpet merchants union, announced some time ago that the Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines of Iran has approved the proposal to issue identity cards for export carpets, and in the future these kinds of carpet will have identity cards. In these identity cards, the weave of the carpet, the number of knots, length and

width, material, pile, waft and weft, and location of weaving will be indicated and be verified by the Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines. He added: "The issuance of identity cards for export carpets will block forgery and taking advantage of the name, Iranian carpets."

A member of the board of directors of the handwoven carpet merchants union in Germany said to the reporter for KEYHAN published in Tehran: "The people of Europe, particularly Germany, view Iranian carpets artistically and spend most of their savings on purchasing valuable Iranian carpets and preserve them as antiques." He added: "Iranian carpets have now regained their position, to some extent, on the European market, especially in Germany, which in our belief is not enough; more advertisement is needed. In this connection, the government and the officials of Iran must grant maximum facilitation for the export of Iranian carpets."

Shipping Line Expands Passenger, Cargo Services

*LD2208084391 Tehran IRNA in English 1459 GMT
20 Aug 91*

[Text] Tehran, Aug 20, IRNA—Managing director of the Islamic Republic Shipping Line (IRSI), Mohammad-Hoseyn Dajmar, said here today that during the calendar year 1369 (ended 21 March 1991) 15.8 million tons of goods arrived at the ports of the country.

The total incoming cargo by seaports, he said, was up by 11 percent as compared to the total in the previous year.

IRSI accounted for 13.2 million tons of the incoming cargo, with its vessels handling 5.8 million tons of the said total, while it chartered other vessels for the rest of the cargo.

Dajmar said last year IRSI established regular journeys to the ports of Argentina and Brazil as well as a direct shipping service to Australia. In addition the Grassnosk Line on the eastern side of the Caspian Sea started regular journeys to the Iranian ports on the southern shores of the Caspian late last month.

Sea journeys from the southern ports of Iran to the Persian Gulf states are now regular events. As of Wednesday another two cargo and passenger ships will make regular ply between Bushehr and Kuwait.

He said during the last calendar year (1369) IRSI bought one ship (Hormoz-II) from West Germany, one cargo ship (Iran-Baseer) from Bulgaria. Another cargo ship (Farabi) and six other vessels saw service in the Irano-Hind shipping line between Iran and the subcontinent.

Dajmar said IRSI is to place an order for another 23 ships from foreign manufacturers in addition to ships with freezer facilities to operate between the Persian Gulf and Indian ports.

He said regular sea journeys in the Gulf of Oman between the Iranian port of Jask and Fujayrah in the

United Arab Emirates as well as between Chahbahar and Muscat would start in March.

Paper Views Economic Problems, Political Factions

NC0309122891 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian
25 Aug 91 p 2

[Abdollah commentary: "Regarding the Remarks by Mr. Emami-Kashani, the Acting Friday Imam of Tehran and the Esteemed member of the Council of Guardians and the Assembly of Experts"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The acting Friday imam has finally been forced to comment on high prices, particularly the prices in the government sector and the expensive rates charged (without any fear!) in the private sector. He has said: The private sector's practice of overcharging and its general injustice has finally forced the government to fix prices!

Perhaps he is the first person to discuss openly at a public forum the topic that has only been mentioned solicitously in some (newly published!) newspapers and in the speeches of some of the deputies belonging to the faction that follows the imam's line. The opposite faction has interpreted the raising of this topic as an attempt to provoke the people and undermine the government.

It remains to be seen what the Friday imam's remarks will be called. Is this another attempt to provoke the people and undermine the government? Is gaining more votes in the next Majles elections the real objective? The question arises: Why is the opposite faction so unjust and unpious in its attitude? They blame all the government's sins on Engineer Musavi, but do not protest the programs that the current government is now implementing, even though they considered these very programs to be the most unforgettable sins of Musavi's government, specifically the fixing of prices of certain commodities on the market.

If these actions can be considered Marxist or unlawful, why are they being implemented? If the present situation requires such programs, then why is it that, when, under similar circumstances which came about because the same group of extortionists in the private sector had raised prices, the previous government sought to fix prices and tried to motivate retailers to adhere to them, a negative atmosphere was created, and these extortionists indulged in unacceptable practices, asking wholesalers to withdraw their goods from the market and putting up resistance against the legitimate government which was serving them?

Another question comes to mind: Recently, this faction has been leaning toward the Left in its remarks and writings about the oppressed, social and economic justice, and restriction of the income of the rich. What is the reason for this? If the slogan supporting the deprived ones is correct and revolutionary, then what is the reason behind this hostility and destructive behavior? Why are

long-term plans being created that seek to eliminate a faction which for years has raised the same slogans and has taken a heavy toll that now threatens its very existence?

If the Rightist faction's remarks follow the same lines it has adhered to so far; if it still upholds the interests of the rich on economic issues and still favors the open-door policy in politics—ignoring the slogan of "Neither East nor West" in the management department; if it still believes in accepting those who did not participate in the Revolution in key positions in the country—why don't they make these facts clear to the people? [passage omitted]

In his most recent meeting with the various officials and employees, the exhortations and remarks of his eminence the great leader have revived the hope that the points of difference between the two factions will become harmless and insignificant, God willing. Failing this, conditions will be such that the Council of Guardians' recent announcement outlining its stance on the extent of supervision in the elections will, at the least, contradict the approved plan for this supervision, which will thus (?clearly) become the precursor for excluding one faction from the upcoming elections.

Similarly, the statements by Ayatollah Yazdi, the head of the judiciary, at last Friday's prayers, his one-sided advice to those who might be removed from office, his exhortations on sincerity of action and eagerness to serve, and his appeal to be above considerations such as where they will be stationed or what designation they will be allotted (high or low!) require a detailed analysis which will be made at the next possible opportunity.

IRIB Transmissions Cover 95 Percent of Country

91AS1564C Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 3 Sep 91 p 2

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 2 (IRNA)—Radio transmissions by the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) cover 95 percent of the country, while television programs are received in almost 84 percent of Iran, IRIB head, Mohammad Hashemi said here Monday.

Hashemi said arrangements have been made to set up 1,750 satellite ground stations all over the country during the 5-year development plan launched last year. At present, he added, 300 ground stations are operating in Iran.

To bring the whole country under radio-T.V. coverage, said Hashemi, IRIB needed to set up 3,000 ground stations.

Regarding the relaying of IRIB T.V. programs abroad, he said it all depends upon the approval of the country concerned, and cited the case of Lebanon, where a relay station has been set up to receive Iranian TV broadcasts.

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